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REVIEWS

Narrative of the Residence of the Persian Princes in London in 1835 and 1836; with an Account of their Journey from Persia, and subsequent Adventures. By James Baillie Fraser, Esq. 2 vols. Bentley.

"Is it to be the story of the *Khirs-e-Dushmunzaree*? Now the *Khirs*, or Bear of Dushmunzaree, was, it appears, a terrible wild animal, which having committed great ravages, its name was used as a bugbear to quiet naughty children, although, however, being taken alive and brought to the town, multitudes came to see it, and it thus enriched its captors. Hence every monster produced to attract public notice is, in Persia, proverbially termed a *Khirs-e-Dushmunzaree*."

Echoing the Prince Reza Koolee Meerza's pertinent inquiry, when—like every true gentleman, reluctant to be victimized by the coarse and self-seeking courtesies of the vulgar fashionable,—he handed over the "*At homes*," daily showered upon his table at Mivart's, to Mr. Fraser, for his inspection and fiat—we, too, asked, with more than usual interest, when we saw this book announced, "Is it to be the story of the *Khirs-e-Dushmunzaree*?" For the last four years the *salons* of London have been made resplendent by extensive importations from the "rare land of the East." Hardly a ball has been danced through,—even in houses of little pretension,—without its being honoured by the sun-like and comely presence of that dignitary, whose clever, heady eyes, and spherical face and figure, and sumptuous petticoats of marigold satin, have given a subject at once so rich and difficult to the ivory of Lover; or, if he could not be engaged, without the attraction of some one stray Turk at least, albeit,—in his dull crimson *fez*, and hot, close-buttoned frock coat, (like Charity, covering what "the deponent saith not,")—dismissal shorn of his beams as a star, when compared with the shawled, and turbaned, and trowsered Mussulman of the days that have been! Many a time, the sight of some such exotic figure and face, so strangely contrasted with the characterless toilettes and physiognomies which crowd our rooms, has spirited us away—even in the midst of the harpings and pipings of Weipert's band—into the dream-land of speculation. We have longed to know what thoughts were passing in minds comparatively sealed to us,—minds, by birth, and position, and education, filled with such different sympathies and prejudices from our own. It was as an answer to this longing, that the announcement of this work excited in us high hopes that we should meet, at last, with a record, genuine as entertaining, of the impressions made but yesterday by the grave business of our lives, and their lighter amusements, (often, so say sarcastic foreigners, the gravest part of English life,) upon strangers, whom education and birth had endowed with some intelligence where-withal to examine, and with some right of passing judgment abroad as well as at home.

We must frankly state, in the outset, that our hopes have been but in part fulfilled, by what is to be found in Mr. Fraser's book. The hurry and occupation entailed upon him by his office of *mehendar* to these scions of Persian royalty, appear to have hindered his keeping any very minute journal of their daily sayings and doings. Moreover, by his own showing, a certain over-

care for *les bienséances* (that most paralyzing of all minor hindrances), seems to have hung about him whenever he went into the world with his charge; and in his dread of witnessing untidy eating—of being stunned by exclamations not pitched in the key of May Fair—of being thought to abet compliments too demonstrative, or weariness too royally permitted to be evident—many a quaint and characteristic trait must have passed by unnoted. Again, the peculiar position and fortunes of the exiled Princes rendered them melancholy and irritable,—reluctant to move abroad, and jealously alive to their own consequence, instead of being disposed to take England as it goes;—from all which circumstances there is less salt in the volumes before us than we had pleased ourselves by anticipating. They are still, however, entertaining and welcome. The first relates the journey of the Princes to England, and their London residence; the second, the incidents which attended their return to Baghdad. With the former we shall deal on the present occasion.

We have spoken of the position of Reza Koolee Meerza (whom we shall distinguish as the Prince), Nejeff Koolee Meerza (or the *Wali*), and Timour Meerza (the youngest and boon companion of the party), as being equivocal and painful. A few words of retrospect will recall it to our readers. On the death of Futeh Allee Shah, a number of candidates started for the Persian throne. This might be expected to happen, when it is remembered that the defunct monarch almost equalled Solomon himself—if not in wisdom, in the number of his wives; it being affirmed that his harem was generally made comfortable by the presence of an army of eight hundred to one thousand ladies;—that a hundred and twenty sons were born to him, and a hundred and fifty daughters, many of whom settled in life on a scale of establishment less liberal, indeed, but still abundant. Hence, it fell out, that when Futeh was gathered to his fathers, the question of the succession, perplexed by the death of Abbás Meerza (his second, noblest born son), became a matter of contest. Mahomed Meerza, the son of Abbás, had, indeed, been recognized by Great Britain and Russia;—but uncles and cousins raised a many-tongued outcry; and the *Zil-e-Sultann*, (full brother to Abbás), and the *Firmaun Firmace*, (Governor-General of Fars, and father of our late visitors), were either of them ready to fill the vacant seat. A third, Hassan Allee Meerza, brother to the *Firmaun Firmace*, came forward, and, in conjunction with the *Firmaun Firmace*, raised the standard of rebellion against Mahomed Shah.

These few words of history and genealogy were necessary, but we shall not trace the progress of their revolt, which was ultimately checked by the active exertions of Sir Henry Bethune Lindsay. The pretenders were reduced to a state of defeat and perplexity. The governor of Fars was surprised in Sheerauz; the Eel-Khānee of that city declared for Mahomed, and instant flight or surrender became inevitable. Our three friends while endeavouring to find an open gate of escape for their relatives, were themselves hotly pursued:—

"The first gate they came to was already in the hands of the Eel-Khānee's people; they galloped to another; a party were just in the act of securing it; but the man who was shutting to the interior

door was shot by the pistol of Timour Meerza before he could effect his purpose. Another, in the act of discharging his musket at Timour, was cut down by his brother Iskunder. The ball, fortunately, was arrested by three thick flaps of bread which 'the Sword of the State' had caught up when leaving home, as a provision in case of accidents, and they saved his life."

The heads of the insurgent party were delivered by the Eel-Khānee, into the hands of Sir Henry Bethune, who dispatched them to Tehran, to be recompensed by the successful monarch. We must leave the *Firmaun Firmace* to his death of cholera, which took place while he was on the road to his appointed place of imprisonment,—and Hassan Allee Meerza to the barbarous punishment of the loss of his eyes, and follow the fortunes of the three fugitives. Their different characters will develop themselves so naturally in the sequel, that we shall spare our readers Mr. Fraser's full-length portraits, and proceed at once with their adventures. Their first step was to throw themselves into the hands of a chief of the Mamasenni Elecauts, one Mahomed Wullee Khan, keeper of the "White Fortress,"—a Persian Willie of Westburnflat,—who has even been falsely accused of exercising his predatory propensities upon these unfortunate princes, on the plea that, as they must be robbed, the property might as well remain in the family. But this tale was denied by the Princes, though Timour Meerza owned that for much of their accommodation in Wullee Khan's tents they were indebted to a successful foray made on the caravan of Timour's own sister, "The Beam of the Empire." An attempt was made while in the White Fortress, to get together an army, and to reinstate the desperate cause; but the *Firmaun Firmace*, in reply to his sons' letters notifying their preparations, very sensibly advised them to cease from such an unequal contest, and either to adopt his meditated purpose of retirement to the quiet and unimportance of a religious life—or to venture on the more adventurous audacity of a journey to England, "to lay hands upon the skirt of its sovereign," and implore his protection and assistance.

This advice, which came with testamentary authority, the eldest Prince disposed himself to obey, and persuaded his brothers to follow; still, however, not wholly laying aside all demonstrations of hostility, for on quitting the White Fortress, he made his way towards the Bebahan district to demand succour and assistance from the governor, a creature of his own exalting. In this journey, rendered fruitless by the governor's ingratitude, he was accompanied by his mother, who had escaped from Sheerauz, and managed to join him. Disappointed in their hopes from Bebahan, they—

"Resolved to make the best of their way towards the country of the Chaab Arabs, which lies on the north side of the Persian gulf towards its head, and on the mouths of the rivers that flow into it. But to reach the low country was by no means an easy matter, for, as they advanced, they found it all in the hands of their pursuers, so that they were forced to abandon the roads and inhabited districts, and skulk from hill to hill in order to avoid captivity. In this long and devious course the hardships they endured were very great; for food frequently failed them, and they were often obliged to be content with the very precarious supplies of game which skill in the chase enabled them to procure.

"At length, after encountering and conquering a thousand difficulties, they made their way to the banks of the river Zeidoon, which enters the gulf at Endian, and is the boundary of the Chaab country to the south-east. It was swelled to a prodigious size by the melting of the snow in the hills, and bridge there was none to be seen; so that, however great their desire to place this important obstacle between themselves and their pursuers, to pass appeared impossible; the very attempt was out of question. They made inquiries of a countryman regarding the means of crossing at other points: and the peasant engaged to conduct them to a practicable ford at some distance higher up, as no bridge existed.

"On reaching the ford, they found the river one wide and roaring sea of turbid water, boiling furiously along. They were smitten with despair. To attempt to cross, was as much as life was worth; to remain where they were until the waters should subside, was to run the imminent hazard of being taken. Hungry and exhausted, however, they resolved, in spite of the danger and lowering weather, to lie down upon the bank and rest awhile; and, having set their guide to watch upon a neighbouring hillock, they dismounted, and stretched themselves to sleep.

"Scarcely had they closed their eyes, however, when the prince was roused by the sentinel, who told him that he had seen horsemen descending from the high grounds at some distance. He rose with a start, and soon became aware of a numerous body of horsemen who were approaching, and who, there could be no doubt, were their pursuers. Awakening the rest of the party, they got ready the horses, eyed the foaming waters, and then gazed at the horsemen, who were approaching with all the speed their weary animals could make. The case might now be called a choice of deaths; but fear of falling alive into the hands of their foes, and being delivered over to the charge of the furoshes, not to mention the tender mercies of their cousin king, prevailed over the terror of the flood. They bound their mother on her horse, tying her feet under its belly, placed a bandage over her eyes that she might not be made giddy by looking on the whirling waters, and two of them taking hold of her reins, they all plunged into the torrent. Desperate was the struggle, and far—far down were they driven; but, by the mercy of God, they all got safe through, and their pursuers came up in time only to see them land in safety on the opposite side, and retire into the country, whither their zeal was not hot enough to induce them to follow."

The above is a fair sample of the hardships to which the fugitives were exposed; the severity whereof, no less than his own good sense, disposed the Prince to turn a deaf ear to all further proposals of assistance and plans of revolt, and to fix his thoughts resolutely on the English scheme. In pursuance of this, the three brothers reached Baghdad, from whence they crossed the desert to Damascus, a journey which, owing to the blunders of their guides and their dread of marauding Arabs, occupied some fifty days. In spite of detours and precautions, they had more than one joust with the robbers of the waste; in the first of which Timour, the cavalier of the trio, signalled himself by shooting a splendid white horse under the Arab who rode forward to parley and exact; and by his prowess not only succeeded in bullying the robbers out of any idea of gain, but even succeeded in extorting from them a night's meal. It was in the month of February that they reached Damascus, whence they passed over to Beyroot, thence by his Majesty's steamer *Africaine* to Malta, and thence again, after performing quarantine in the *Spitfire*, to Falmouth. Upon some casual recommendation, the eldest and the youngest Princes removed to Bath, and pitched their tents of rest, after a frightful sea-sickness, resolved to remain there till they could learn on what terms they were likely to be received by the English government; to ascertain which the *Wali*, who seems to have been the man of business of the party, was dispatched to London,

with his interpreter, Assad Khayat, and a letter to the Foreign Secretary.

Alas for the high-soaring hopes of the *Wali* and his brethren! Our government, rarely niggardly in its reception of unfortunates who throw themselves on its hospitality, could indeed receive them as guests, but not assist them as Princes—could take rooms for them at Mivart's, and provide largely for their comfort and entertainment, but not help them to their object, the possession and sovereignty of Fars, or recognize them with the "chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before them,"—the pride, pomp, and circumstance, which form so large an item in the happiness of a Persian "*Shahzadeh*." Before the Prince and Timour Meerza could be summoned from Bath, the *Wali* commenced the round of London sights with the Midsummer charity spectacle at St. Paul's—Everington's shawl warehouse—a show of wax-work in a hair-dresser's window (the most attractive of the three)—and 'Marino Faliero' and 'Benyowsky' at the Italian Opera. The *ballet* was found by the Persian a perfect Heaven of Hoories; and he congratulated himself on having been previously inured to such an intoxicating scene by seeing "the Shah's dancing-women and all the harem let loose into the gardens in their richest dresses." On a following day, he was treated with a Chiswick flower-show, where he made up to the rose-bushes like old friends, and amused himself by taking a searching survey of our English female beauty there assembled. At length, however, being tired, and longing for a nap—

His custom always of an afternoon—

he expressed a wish to retire:—

"I consented to his wishes, but first proposed that he should take some refreshment. 'No, no,' said he, 'I want nothing'; but, after a little pause, he added, 'Is there any wine?'—'By all means,' said I.

"The prince chose port wine, of which he took three good bumpers, and I then proposed that we should go; but the place was sheltered, the wine began to warm him, and a number of ladies and gentlemen had gathered round. 'No,' said he, 'let us wait a little and look about us'; and he returned with interest the sharp gaze which his singular dress and figure drew from many a bright eye. But, after peering quite as much as politeness would have permitted into every female face around, he said, 'Ah! there is not much worth waiting for here; let us go yonder;' and away we went accordingly across the lawn, followed and met by numbers of the company.

"I saw that his step was now becoming lighter, and that his head was wagging a little from side to side; and, after a while, he stopped short, and looking up in my face with a queer leering expression, he said, 'Ah, I am better now.—*Keif mee-ayid*.' '*Keif*' (that is, the exhilaration derived from intoxicating substances, without the intoxication itself), '*Keif* is coming; I am happy now; come, let us just sit down here on this bench, and look at these people passing before us. Wherever I sit they will be sure to come fast enough. I am as great a *tamashah* (rare-show) myself, as anything here.' * * *

"On the following day (Sunday), I took the *Wali* a ride through the Regent's Park, and towards Finchley, being desirous of showing him something of the richness of English country scenery. He was greatly struck with the beauty of the park, which was in most delicious verdure, and delighted with the gay crowds that filled it. The day was sweet and genial, and there were numbers of pretty and well-dressed women passing up and down. I pointed out many things which I thought would interest him, but he sat for a while absorbed as if in thought. 'Ah, well!' said he at last; 'what a sad pity it is, after all, that men must die!' 'Ay, so it is, prince,' replied I; 'but you remember there is a heaven—a paradise to come.'—'Ay,' said he, 'there is, and that is the consolation; there is another world. But, *wallah!* these places go far to make a man forget it.'"

In the evening, the rest of the party joined him from Bath; and here "the story of the *Khirs-e-Dushmunzearee*" opened in all its glory.

Mr. Fraser was assisted in his care of the illustrious strangers by our friend and contributor, Meerza Ibrahim,† and subsequently, by Sir Gore Ouseley. Engagements now poured in thick and threefold. In partaking of these, the eldest prince showed himself to be the most thoughtful of the brethren—the most oppressed by consciousness of exile and lost glory—the most haunted by the Oriental jealousy that the regulated quantum of honour should await him. The *Wali*, on the arrival of his brothers, sunk into a second place—he was short-sighted, and therefore seems hardly to have got on so well as the others: we hear no more of his standing on the sofa to receive guests, which he did on Mr. Fraser's first visit,—while Timour rattled among the women, and with the men bragged of his own feats of sporting—in particular of a lion-hunt at Shalpoor, wherein he had come off victorious in a desperate conflict. They began the season at the Marchioness of (Salisbury's?):

"I think (says Mr. Fraser), the impression made by both the manners and appearance of the Prince was favourable; and his jewelled dagger, which was handed round the room, was the object of universal admiration. This he had told me happened to be in his girdle when he was forced to fly. It was one, he took care to assure me, among the least beautiful and costly of a dozen others in his possession; but he loved it because it had enamelled upon it the picture of his eldest son, a boy of eight or nine years old, whom he described as most beautiful and well-beloved. * * * As for the *Wali*, he took matters coolly, sitting quietly in an observant mood until spoken to, when, on the question being interpreted, he always had his prompt reply at hand.

"In fact, matters on the whole went on with tolerable smoothness; but there were occasional interruptions, chiefly from the *brusquerie* of my friend Timour, who has no great patience, nor idea of self-command. Feeling himself thirsty, and being told that water and refreshments were to be found in an apartment provided for them, he called out to me at the top of his voice, 'Come along then, let us go and get it'; and with that he set himself to push and elbow his way through the crowd of *élégantes* and fashionables in so rough a manner, that I hung back in dismay. On this he called out loudly to me to 'come on: what was I waiting for?'"

Mr. Fraser found his office of pilotage a yet more nervous affair at the Caledonian fancy ball. We must add an anecdote concerning this party to those of the *Wali* fondling the poet's flower of his country at the Horticultural *fête*, and of the prince's reason for cherishing the admired dagger just described:—

"The bagpipes again struck up some pibroch; on which the prince, pricking up his ears, with a start, exclaimed, 'What is that? that is Persian music! *Wallah!* that is my own country music. Hush! let me listen.' And he leaned his head on one side as one does to catch a delicious strain. In fact, to unaccustomed ears, the sounds were not unlike the clangour of the *nokara khaneh*, or band that plays at stated intervals above the gates of Eastern princes; although an enthusiastic Highlander might not be altogether pleased with the comparison. As the pibroch continued, and the measure quickened, the prince became quite agitated. '*Ai-wahi! ai-wahi!*' said he, shaking his head slowly from side to side, 'that is true Iræne; it brings my own country quite to my view! That is just the strain they play when we go to fight. *Ai-wahi! ai-wahi!*' And his eyes, half filled with tears, were actually dancing in his head. It was well that the music ceased before his agitation became quite ungovernable, as seemed likely soon to be the case."

We can, henceforth, only note such passages at balls and other diversitements as illustrate national taste. From the top of Mrs. (Wyndham Lewis's?) house, in Park Lane, the Princes witnessed a review, on the anniversary of the great day of Waterloo:—

"There were, as I understood, nearly five thou-

† See Historical Sketch of Arabic and Persian Literature, Athenæum, 1837.

sand men of the Guards and household troops on the field; the rapid precision with which every movement and manœuvre was performed was admirably calculated to strike and astonish the Persians. 'What *sungers!*' (fortified stockades or bulwarks), said they, when the infantry formed their impregnable squares, and stood prepared to receive cavalry. 'One would say that each *sunger* was a solid mass: not a foot nor an arm is out of place. See; it is a white line, and a red line, with the steel glittering above. Ah, look! they kneel, they fire,—*barikillah, barikillah!* admirable!'

'As for Timour, he was quite unable to contain himself. He stood with flushed cheek, flashing eye, and outstretched neck, like a bird on the wing, following every movement as if he would have precipitated himself down among the performers. 'Ah, well done, well done!' exclaimed he, as the horseguards made a splendid charge; 'these fellows will do the business. But what do they stop for?' continued he, looking blank, as the whole drew up at the proper place, quite forgetting that it was not a charge in earnest. 'Ah! look at these horses,' said he again, as two or three horses with empty saddles ran across the plain in a very business-like style; 'their riders have got shot now! (*gola khound!*)' But when the light cavalry took to skirmishing with the retreating artillery, and harassing them, *selon les régles*, without closing, he lost all patience; '*Ai namerdha!*—Ah, cowards!' exclaimed he; 'why don't you charge at once like men? charge ye—and the guns are taken.'

'In a little while the whole body of flying artillery swept by at speed, a splendid sight: 'What do you think of that?' said some of the bystanders. '*Ah, Piderish be suzund!*' returned he with a shake of the head; 'may their fathers be roasted! We know too much of these concerns, to our cost. These were the things that Lindsay (Sir Henry Bethune Lindsay) had, when he met us near Komaishah; and when we were galloping up with our horsemen, and thought we were carrying everything before us, he stopped short all at once, and blew us to the devil.'

'The elder prince was more collected, and confined himself, for the most part, to moderate exclamations of praise; or, if questioned as to his opinion of the beauty of such or such an evolution, he would say 'it was perfection,—could not be better.' But when at length, after some heavy firing both of artillery and infantry, with a beautifully sustained display of file-firing from the latter, the smoke blew away, disclosing one long and perfect line of troops, as steady as a rock, flanked by the terrible batteries that had just been thundering, he was quite surprised out of all his moderation, and after a few most expressive ejaculations, he turned to me and said, 'Wullah! Sahab Fraser, the horsemen of Iran are the best in the world, as you know well; but if there were a hundred thousand of them here on the spot, they could not touch that line;—that line! what could touch it?' The review was over, the show at an end; yet still he stood gazing, till at length the movement of those around him woke him from a sort of trance, which no doubt had as much to do with the past as the present. He heaved a deep sigh, and said, as we passed on to descend, 'What are a hundred balls or operas to this?'

The grand Panorama at the Colosseum, too, excited their rapturous wonder; Prince Timour, indeed, seems to have had a taste for the arts, as well as a passion for the gunsmiths' shops, and for our native beauties, whom he soon learned to propitiate by his '*You very pooly!*' At Somerset House they were bewildered rather than enchanted; in society, (being, as they said, true '*Pillaw-Khoors*, eaters of pillow, that is, dinner men'), their chief pleasure seems to have been found in quiet dinners, where they were attended to rather than stared at; and, for the most part, behaved well enough to allay the apprehensions of Mr. Fraser. When receiving guests at home, however, their conduct was not to be relied on:—

'The two youngest would start up from table without the least cause assigned, and leave the room, humming an air or spouting a piece of poetry, as if to show their unconcern. They had eat enough, or were tired of sitting, or wanted to say a prayer, or some other crotchet had suddenly struck their brain;

and they never imagined that they were committing an indelicacy towards others in indulging in it. I have seen some of their guests, grave, well-bred persons, right sore astonished at such a bolt. 'Is the prince unwell?' they would inquire; and, on being told that it was nothing but some momentary whim that had struck him, seemed much inclined to look upon it as the effect of a trifling crack in the poor man's cranium.'

But the manifold wonders of London were not found potent enough as a motive to enable the Princes to battle with their habitual indolence,—to relinquish afternoon slumbers, without yawningly counting the cost,—or to keep themselves in punctual readiness for the pleasures catered for them by their vigorous Mehmendar. The latter seems to have been more than once puzzled by manifestations of national taste, which, to our thinking, were fifty times more acceptable than could have been the most smiling endurance of the forms and usages of a strange society, or the best counterfeited enjoyment of artificial pleasures which they could not have enjoyed in reality.

'In the evening I called to take them to the opera. 'Ah! Sahab Fraser,' said Timour Meerza, meeting me with a face all beaming with joy, 'we have had great luck to-day. Do you know, we have got hold of a regular Persian *sáz* (musical instrument),—a *centára*, or dulcimer! A man came here to play to us on something like it; so I described it to him, and he brought me one, which I have hired from him at three shillings a week.'—'It is all true,' said the prince. '*Ai-wahhi, ai-wahhi*, it is a capital instrument. And such good luck to get it too! But you shall hear it—it is *behisht!* (paradise). And Timour Meerza, there, is an *oustáde*, a capital musician. He studied it ten years, Wullah! He knows it as a science. *Be-murg-e-tu*—by your death, you must hear him! Timour Meerza, tell the servant to bring the *centára*, and let Sahab Fraser hear you play. He will be enchanted.'

'They had just risen from dinner, and it was time to go to the opera, which was La Sonnambula, and in which Grisi and Lablache played the first parts. All this I represented; but that was nothing. 'Patience—time enough!' said the prince. 'Sit down for a moment, *ai musselmann!* What is all the haste? we shall have enough of the opera—sit down!' So the *centára* was brought, and down squatted Timour Meerza on the carpet with the instrument before him; and, seizing the quills, he began to play in a style that indicated a perfect acquaintance with it, whatever might be its powers, or the nature of his music. The other princes, taking their seats with infinite gravity, listened to the shrill sounds, as the quills rattled over the wires, with a delight that was truly amusing; but which was shared by Meerza I. who stood drinking them in with equal eagerness.

'There now!' remarked the elder prince, as the music became louder and quicker; 'that is the piece which is played with us just before we engage in battle. Who could resist that? And certainly it was a clangour sufficient to have put many an enemy to flight, especially if lovers of good music. But it rather resembled the jingling of broken pots and pans than the magnificent crash of battle. 'This again,' said his royal highness, as the measure changed,—'this is a dance; listen to it! Would not that strain make a lame man dance, even if he had never learnt it?'—'Ay,' said Meerza I. to me in English; 'that now is what I call music. You may not like it, perhaps; but it gives me more pleasure than twenty operas. Now it is ten years since I have heard this piece before, and during all that time I have been assimilating to your tastes and habits. And I enjoy your fine music too; yet so strong are old feelings and impressions, that none of it moves me like this. Compared with this it gives me no pleasure. What, then, must your opera airs be to these men who know nothing about it?'—'Ah!' exclaimed the elder prince, after looking long at me with glowing cheeks and half-shut eyes, 'that strain now, makes a man die with pleasure! *Ghush mee-kund!* he swoons away on hearing it.' The Wali, unable longer to contain himself, rose abruptly from his seat, and took to walking about, calling out

'*Wah! wah! ah-wah!*' and rolling his eyes in his head, and tossing his arms about occasionally, while he ejaculated scraps of poetry and sundry rapturous expressions. So here were Grisi, Lablache, Tamburini, Rubini, and all the attractions of the first opera and singers in the world, despised, abandoned, for the wiry jingle of an old dulcimer, by men to whom one would have imagined the sight and sounds they were engaged to hear would have proved the highest possible treat.'

We shall leave the Princes at the Opera, where they found Grisi's neck and arms and figure (the latter more rotund than precisely suits our insular notions of young beauty) worth a dozen of her voice. Next week, however, we shall take them up again: perhaps at Vauxhall.

The Evils of Quarantine Laws, and Non-existence of Pestilential Contagion; the Privy Council and College of Physicians; the Means of Prevention, and Method of Cure of the Cholera Morbus, and the Atrocities of the Cholera Panic. By Captain White, late H.E.I.C. Service. Effingham Wilson.

A Letter to Lord John Russell on Asiatic Cholera, &c. By Joseph Ayre, M.D. Longman & Co.

THE title-page of Captain White's publication is boiling over with contentious matter—he takes at once a whole herd of bulls by the horns: "the Captain is a bold man;" and had his discretion been equal to his valour, he might have done the state some service. With respect to the quarantine laws, we are inclined to adopt the abolition side of the question, upon the simple ground, that if the half of what has been said of the subtle venom of plague contagion were true, the strongest law that could be made would prove inadequate to exclude it; while, on the other hand, if it were less than true, then is the existing law a great private wrong, and a useless national loss. The extent of that loss may be inferred from the fact, that 4745 ships from the ports of the Baltic, Mediterranean, &c. were released from quarantine between the 1st of June and 31st of December, 1831.†

The imputed material cause of contagion, invisible, intangible, and cognizable only through its accredited effects, floats between the realms of fact and of argument, and is seized upon as the peculiar property alike of the experimentalist, and the general reasoner. The former, therefore, in subjecting the facts of a prevailing malady to observation and experiment, is liable to overlook their mixed nature, and to forget the loose and equivocal deductions of which they are susceptible, the all but inevitable necessity in which they place him, of viewing them only through the medium of preconceived opinion. He proceeds in the same way, and in the same spirit, as if he were operating on a chemical compound, and rushes on a conclusion, as if it could be directly tested by a sensible result. Thus he mistakes mixed fact and opinion for simple fact, remains contented with less than sufficient evidence, and is surprised and shocked that the rest of the world does not accede to his doctrines, and admit their consequences, upon first hearing of them.

The general reasoner, on the other hand, converts the affair into a metaphysical disputation, assumes words to be things, and begs the question at issue, translating all he sees into his own language, and explaining things on an hypothesis.

The whole matter in evidence, on which a dispute can be raised, is, that an individual has fallen sick, under such and such circumstances, of a disease, at that time, of frequent occurrence; that he has previously inhabited such a place, having such a locality and neighbourhood: that

† See Sir David Barry's Report, (*Athenæum*, 1835, p. 408.)

he has been subjected to such influences, and had such a degree of approximation to, or of contact with another sufferer. The cause of his illness can be imputed merely by a deduction, to be sifted out of these multitudinous premises; and, to come to a sound conclusion, each influence must be observed separately, and its weight estimated with caution. Much also is liable to be overlooked, much neglected. Then comes another question concerning the weight of testimony, the capacity, temper, and honesty of witnesses—the distinctness of facts. On the side of contagion, the communication is not, as in the inoculation for small-pox, subjected to the senses. All that is witnessed is, that the sick man had been placed in a situation to take an infection, *if such a thing there be*. Then, again, the effect does not follow the imputed cause immediately, or in any very well defined period; and, still more, it need not of necessity follow at all. Hundreds are exposed, for one who falls sick. On the other hand, if the disease be not propagated by contagion, it is referred either to an unknown morbid constitution of the atmosphere; or to the presence of an endemic poison; that is, a poison generated on the spot, and confined in its agency to the person exposed to it. A person, then, having been so exposed, flies from the place which is the seat of the disease, and is taken ill at a distant and healthy spot. But he has also been in contact with other sick. He may then either be the victim of that contact, of the endemic poison, or of some occult quality of the air, or lastly his disease may be altogether independent, and personal in its origin. All and each of these cases are possible. Four disputants, embracing each a different view, may all defend their doctrines upon the same facts. It is manifest, that a certainty of the truth is, in any individual case, unattainable; and that it can only be procured by an immense accumulation of instances, a careful elimination of all accidental interferences, and a cool and logical estimate of the entire series of observed fact. Such a case cannot therefore be decided at a heat, by hardy assertion and a confident brow.

Notwithstanding, however, all these causes of error, which beset the path of inquiry, something approaching to a certain conclusion might have been expected from an investigation spread over centuries; but, unfortunately, the plague question is one of those which mix themselves with the passions; and the very fear which the approach of the malady inspires, degrades the intellect, by degenerating into superstitious horror, utterly subversive of cool judgment. How little susceptible of a prompt and conclusive decision, the question of any contagion not cognizable by the senses really is, was sufficiently demonstrated in the instance of cholera, which ran the round of the globe, and was subjected to the closest observation of physicians and philosophers of all nations, without having enabled either the profession or the public to arrive at an uniform opinion concerning the cause, and the laws it obeys.

Before mankind can be brought to unanimity on points like these, they must revise their dialectics, acquire a better acquaintance with the operations of their own minds, and obtain a more intimate knowledge of the sources of error, which accompany alike the exercise of the senses, and that of the reasoning faculties. In the mean time, however, it may be possible to arrive at that coarse and approximative truth, which will suffice for all practical purposes, and lead men either to a gradual and cautious abandonment of the quarantine, or to a patient submission to its inconveniences and restraints.

Believing, therefore, as we do, that Captain White has adopted the true side of the argument, and seeks an object which would prove highly

beneficial to society, we cannot too forcibly deprecate the polemical, not to say pugnacious, manner he has assumed in the present work; and we have not the slightest doubt, that if, as he asserts, he has received less than a patient attention from Lord Grey, Lord Melbourne, and Sir Robert Peel, he owes the neglect very much to the violent and prejudiced tone of his own representations. To take a mitigated instance, "When it is considered," says our author, "the dreadful sacrifice of human life, which has taken place by the cholera, and by the impolitic enforcement of quarantine laws, since I had the honour to submit my work on Cholera to Lord Melbourne, April 23, 1835, it will be difficult to divest ourselves of a sense of the vast moral responsibility he has incurred by his neglect and disregard of my suggestions (!!) It is difficult to say, what the British nation may think of a prime minister of the Crown of England, who could be so regardless of the welfare of mankind, as to reject the important truths I had the honour to set before him."

This arrogant assumption of infallibility, this impatience of contradiction, runs through the whole volume; and it would be difficult to say, what "a prime minister of the Crown of England" could think of such an applicant, but that he was a vulgar-minded man, and ignorant at once of the world, and of the laws which govern the opinions of society. Captain White had not even the credential letter of a diploma to show in his favour, not even the looser proof of medical knowledge derived from the fact of having practised the profession; and a minister, having professional men of reputation at his hand to rely on, was fully justified in dismissing the confident Captain with a "*tractent fabrilis fabri*."

The constituted authorities in medicine, like those in law, are not, it is true, necessarily the very best. The natural tendencies of man are too conservative to allow any institution, once constituted, to keep in the van of the march of mind; and we freely admit the full influence of indolence and security, which operate so disadvantageously on all corporate and collegiate societies. It is not therefore, to colleges of physicians or surgeons, or to learned academies, that we should look for wise adjudications on questions of medical policy; but we do not see where a minister of the crown (*quà* minister), can look for guidance in his ministerial acts on medical occasions, but to those bodies which the existing laws acknowledge as possessing authority in the matter. In reference to the cholera case, it is lamentably notorious, that the parties appealed to for counsel and action, exhibited a perfect incompetence to their task: an incompetence almost the necessary result of their social position, and of the novelty of the disease. It is true that their faults, both of omission and of commission, were many; that they acted in perfect ignorance of the enemy with which they had to contend, without either principle or experience to guide them; and we are well inclined to believe, that as much suffering and misery has resulted from absurd preventive methods, as from the cholera itself. But all this we hold to be more matter for sorrow than for anger; and to impute such faults to the individuals, is, in our opinion, at once to form a false estimate of the duty of a minister, and to quarrel with the eternal nature of things.

There is another fault in Captain White's pamphlet, which even a non-professional examiner will easily seize upon. He has mixed together questions essentially distinct. The question of contagion, or non-contagion in plague is not necessarily involved in that of cholera: plague may be contagious and cholera not, or *vice versa*; or both, or neither of them, may be dependent on that cause. It would be rather a Quixotic enterprise to assume, that contagion, if such a

thing be, must be the same in all diseases, and therefore demonstrable or disprovable, in the abstract; and without this could be done, to infer from plague to cholera, or from cholera to plague, must be a palpable *non sequitur*. But the evil stops not here: along with the asserted non-contagion of cholera, and the sufferings connected with the precautionary measures, adopted from the opposite view, there is mixed up a long train of vituperation, respecting misconduct of officers, obstinacy and ignorance of public functionaries, and, touching even points of medical practice. Indeed, taking the volume before us, as it stands, it is nothing more or less than a charge against the public press, the *corps diplomatique*, three different prime ministers, the Board of Health, and the College of Physicians, of incompetence in general, and a neglect of the author, and of Dr. McLean, in particular. This general imputation places Captain White under a strong primary suspicion of standing in the shoes of the bedlamite, who asserted his own sanity by accusing the whole external world of lunacy. The public at large will be apt to think, right or wrong, that it is infinitely more probable that the author is in error, than that all these parties have acted ignorantly or abusively.

As far as mere medicine is concerned, the charge reduces itself to two heads—the mistaking non-contagious for contagious diseases, and a doubting of the efficacy of the Captain's method of treating cholera, by huge doses of calomel. These are matters essentially distinct. With regard to the last, we shall only say, that no method of cure was more generally looked to by practitioners, in the first instance, as likely to prove beneficial; and, consequently, none was more generally tried in cholera, and abandoned. This is strong *a priori* argument against the remedy, and we cannot but acknowledge, that the College of Physicians, and the Board of Health, stand excused of any sin in not hastily recommending that method. Whether the College treated Captain White with all the courtesy due to his good intentions, is altogether another question. With respect to contagion generally, and cholera contagion in particular, we quite agree with the author, that very little science has been shown in the discussion of that subject; and concerning the latter, we should say, that the public mind is a perfect chaos; but we think, the great majority of those practitioners who have seen the disease, have come to a conclusion, either that cholera is not contagious, or that its contagion acts by laws so peculiar as to render a strict quarantine at once unavailing and unnecessary. On this point, Dr. Ayre's pamphlet is very strong, and may be advantageously consulted.

On the whole, then, we concur with the author, in soliciting public attention to the existing quarantine laws, and in the call for a dispassionate inquiry into the necessity for their abolition, or at least of a very extensive modification of them.

Secondly, we agree with the author in doubting, that the theory of contagion alone will explain the phenomena of cholera, though we are by no means contented with his alternative, of its being "an invisible and undiscoverable scourge, sent by Providence, that will visit all nations." We are nevertheless satisfied, that, should the cholera re-appear in this country, in any alarming extent, other means must be sought for controlling it, than those heretofore put into execution; and, that the whole machinery of boards, local and central, should be thoroughly revised, and amended. But, above all, we recommend the interests of humanity on this occasion, to the whole republic of science; without trusting to those "halting legates," the representatives of any of the constituted medical authorities.

Having said so much of the temper in which

the volume before us is written, it is but justice to the author to say, that he appears to have experienced a long and sore trial of his patience. It ought, however, to be remembered, that on questions like that of the quarantine laws, public bodies have everything to lose, but little to gain, by taking the lead in reforms. If the abolition prove to have been safe, they share the glory with the legislature, the public press, and the public at large. Should it turn out fatal, the entire blame will fall on them, as professional misleaders. Neutrality, therefore, while it flatters their indolence, is their safest course. Public bodies accordingly, are apt to look with an evil eye on the intrusion of innovators. This, we think, Dr. McLean and the other abolitionists have experienced; and Captain White, in taking up their mantle, has probably come in for his share of the consequence. With respect, too, to his notions on the proper treatment of cholera, he evidently felt warmly; and seems by the urgency of his representations, to have constituted himself a bore, and to have been treated accordingly, i. e. with the least possible ceremony. We, nevertheless, recommend his volume to the perusal of those who have an interest in the quarantine laws. If it contains more assertion than proof, it, at least, will give some notion of what has been done towards the disproval of plague contagion.

The pamphlet of Dr. Ayre, though earnest and peremptory, is not polemical. The Doctor advocates, with considerable force of instance, the non-contagious side of the question. He believes the cholera to be epidemic, that is, dependent on a peculiar atmospheric influence. This influence he supposes to act through concurrent agency of marsh miasma, and a low and insufficient vegetable diet, or other similar debilitating causes. He agrees, therefore, with Captain White, in deprecating quarantine restrictions as a preventive, and recommends a closer attention to the diet of the poor, as the most efficacious prophylactic. His pamphlet, though brief, is clear; his statements simple and perspicuous; and he seems to have gone nearly as far in proving a negative, as that effort at proof can be carried.

The Confessions of an Elderly Lady; illustrated by Eight Portraits from Drawings by E. T. Parris. By the Countess of Blessington.
Longman & Co.

AFTER the success which attended the revelation of past passions, struggles, and sorrows made by the Elderly Gentleman, it was not to be expected that the Elderly Lady would withhold her record of the ravages wrought by her bright eyes, and *les plus beaux yeux de sa cassette*, or her remonstrances against an unkindly fortune, which prevented the accomplishment of her dearest wishes, and by a little dash of the waters of Marah with the contents of the golden cup, reminded her, even in the hour of her beauty's pride, that she shared the common lot. Here, then, is a companion tale to the Old Bachelor's; but, contrasted in the manner of its telling, no less than in the moral it conveys. The masculine garrulous selfishness of the sexagenarian is agreeably relieved by the womanly sentiment of Lady Arabella Walsingham, a sentiment, however, never trenching upon sickness.

The elderly lady is as far from being a Lucilla or a Caroline Percy, commanding respect by her perfection, as from being a Griselda, winning all hearts by her meek and uncomplaining patience. Her confessions point, beacon-wise, to the disappointments of heart—the bankruptcies in happiness, awaiting those who expect to find on earth what earth affords not; who, being resolved to play a principal part in life, are again and again reduced to accept of a secondary one. Lady Arabella Walsingham is nobly-born, rich, and beautiful; giving while a child proofs of such

a spirit in her obstinate choice of and immoderate passion for her governess, as that governess (who, naturally enough, becomes her step-mother) would have done well to moderate rather than indulge, had she been placed in circumstances more favourable to the exercise of authority: but Miss Melville's youth and position subject her to the slanderous tongues of the young beauty's kindred. Then, too, the second Lady Walsingham (early widowed by the death of Arabella's father) is placed in delicate circumstances by her honourable efforts to prevent an attachment between her brother, a poor young clergyman, and her richly-dowered charge. Evil tongues interfere again; her discretion and reserve are misrepresented to the young beauty as manoeuvres, undertaken by brother and sister to secure herself and her fortune. Her consequent suspicions are permitted to stifle a nascent affection; and in the magnanimous notion that she is confounding the councils of the artful and insincere, she compels herself to sacrifice her first chance of happiness. It turns out that Frederick Melville had already chosen a lady less exacting, and Arabella (the brilliant but lonely heiress) is permitted on a future day to witness and to envy—despite her assumed pity—his domestic happiness. From the incident just detailed may be gathered the character of the heroine and the history of her affections. A second lover is rejected, in spite of yet severer pangs than attended the first renunciation, because he will keep a corner in his heart for “a departed saint.” Let us see how delicately and truly Lady Blessington paints the dawning of those suspicions which, at last, lead to the second act of self-torment:—

“I longed, yet feared, to question him of the past, when we were alone. I dreaded to revive an image in his recollection, which I desired, oh! how anxiously desired, might be banished from it for ever; and yet the thought of her whose memory I dreaded to recall, was so predominant in mine, and filled me with such painful emotions, that I felt that I could have no peace until he should have reposed in my breast the mournful tale of his former attachment. Often did the question hover on my lips; and as often did it die away, without my being able to frame words that would elicit his confidence without betraying the secret jealousy which was torturing me. There is a conscious unworthiness in jealousy, which, if the victim be proud, makes her shrink from its exhibition. I felt this powerfully, and added to it, was the dread of forfeiting his esteem, by the display of this egotistical passion. I am now surprised when I reflect on the duplicity with which I affected a strong sympathy in his regret for her he had lost; and still more surprised, when I remember how completely he was the dupe of this pretended sympathy. His love for me seemed positively to have been increased tenfold, by the interest I evinced in the fate of my predecessor. My generosity, so superior, as he said, to that of the generality of females, delighted him.

“How little did he know the heart of woman! For though there may be many who might be gentle enough to regret an unknown individual of their own sex, who is represented as having gone down young, beautiful, and good, to an early grave, while yet love and hope would fain have bound her to earth, few have sufficient self-control to conquer her jealous emotions, while listening to the recapitulation of the perfections of the lost one; or the grief her loss had excited in the breast of the object of her own affection.”

We have alluded to the sequel of Arabella's first love, described in her visit to Addlethorp Rectory; the sequel to her second (passing over several intermediate adventures) brings us to the close of the book. Having exchanged the passive pride of youth and beauty for the eager vanity of maturity and faded charms, the hopes of reviving this lost affection tempt the Elderly Lady into an imprudence which proves fatal to the few relics of loveliness yet left her.

Our arrival at the close of her career has made us pass over her marriage. In describing this, Lady Blessington is true to her purpose of reading Vanity and self-occupation a lesson. Even, on looking back to her short married life, Lady Arabella has not the happiness to believe that she has really inspired that grand passion, a belief in which tempted her to commit matrimony. The tale throughout is written with ease and elegance.

HOSIERY AND BOBBIN-NET MANUFACTURE.

Some Particulars of the Present State of the Hosiery Trade.
Statistics of the Bobbin-net Trade.

[Second Notice.]

FROM what we have related of the history of the bobbin-net manufactory, in our former article, it appears that few branches of British industry are more deeply indebted to the inventive powers of our mechanics. Were means employed for favouring the further development of their faculties, it would be difficult to assign limits to the application of the bobbin-net machine, equally to the production of new fabrics and to fanciful varieties and attractive modifications of those already known. What seems to be especially wanting, are the means of securing property in inventions by a cheap patent, and the establishment of a copyright in fancy patterns. There are few trades which suffer more from imitation, and few which afford more scope for the exercise of ingenuity; lace-patterns might be produced in exhaustless varieties, if those who spend time and money in making experiments did not feel that others would reap the profits of their labour. Even under present disadvantages the English workmen maintain a close struggle with the French; and we have seen some new specimens of manufacture with the Jacquard card, whose beauty would, we think, defy foreign competition. We much doubt whether any of the late machine-made specimens of embroidered goods could be surpassed by the most splendid production of the lace-pillows, whether foreign or domestic. It seems now generally acknowledged in the trade, that the fancy products alone will fairly remunerate the capitalist and the artisan.

The cotton yarn used in the bobbin-net during the year 1835 required 1,800,000 lb. of Sea-island wool, worth 180,000*l.*, and silk yarn was consumed of the value of 40,000*l.*

“The total result may be thus stated: the raw material was of the value of 210,000*l.*, and the gross return was 2,212,000*l.*, consisting of plain net 660,000*l.*, quillings 492,000*l.*, and embroidered goods 1,060,000*l.* Amongst the various items of expenditure there may be particularized gassing, bleaching, and dressing about 300,000 pieces, 41,000*l.* Carriage paid by the trade about 11,000*l.* The sales for home consumption have been, in plain nets about 320,000*l.*, quillings 210,000*l.*, embroidered goods 580,000*l.*, making a total of 1,110,000*l.* The foreign trade has taken off about 340,000*l.* plain nets, 282,000*l.* quillings, 480,000*l.* figured goods; total 1,102,000*l.* In 1832 three-fourths of the amount of the trade returns were for goods exported; at present one-half only.”

In the government returns, bobbin-net does not appear as a separate head of entry in the tables of imports and exports; but taking the cognate trade of hosiery and small wares, we find from Porter's tables that the declared value of exports in 1833 was 1,331,317*l.*, and in 1835 it fell to 1,240,284*l.* On examining the tables, we find the greatest diminution in the Belgian trade, which fell from 251,648*l.* to 123,537*l.*, or rather more than one-half. There is also a decrease of one-sixth in the exports to South America; but there is a small increase in the exports to the colonies, especially to the East India Company's territories.

The decrease in the Belgian trade may probably be attributed to the more stringent enforcement of the prohibitory laws, adopted by the French government on the requisition of the bobbin-net manufacturers of Lisle and Calais, in the winter of 1834. The minutes of their evidence have been translated and published by Mr. Felkin for the use of the manufacturers in Nottingham; and we avail ourselves of this document to institute a comparison between the state of the trade in England and France.

The bobbin-net manufacture in France comprises about 1,500 machines, worth on the average 200*l.* each; their original cost was much greater, but the progress of invention has materially deteriorated the value of the old machines. Hence the fixed capital employed in the trade is estimated at 300,000*l.*, and the floating capital at or about as much more. The number of operatives, including embroiderers, is stated to be 50,000, but this we believe to be an exaggeration. It is stated, that the cost of production is 58½ per cent. less to the English than to the French manufacturer, and that the English article is not only much cheaper, but more generally esteemed. One would suppose that this evidence would be sufficient to prove that the manufacture never could become profitable, but the advocates of prohibition and protecting duties have a logic peculiar to themselves, and they insist on the necessity of prohibition, because the existence of the system in a cognate branch of the trade was one of the chief causes of their inferiority, and their consequent distress. The manufacturers complain bitterly of the duties on English yarn. The deputies from Calais say—"It is impossible to make saleable net with the French spinners' yarn. French yarns are much shorter and worse spun; the threads are very uneven. We think that the yarn ought to be admitted without duty, otherwise it will be impossible to continue the manufacture. It is false that the French spinners furnish anything like an eighth of the yarn used in the bobbin-net manufacture; we found out that their pretended French yarn was in reality English, but of bad quality." In plain terms, the deputies confess that the protection granted to the French spinners was useless to them, and mischievous to everybody else; and then they demand that a system, so decisively proved to be injurious, should be extended to the bobbin-net trade. From the evidence of these gentlemen, it appears very evident that the free import of English net would afford profitable employment to embroiderers, lace-workers, &c.; so far would it be from impeding French industry, that it would give it a fresh impulse, while the maintenance of the prohibitions drives the Nottingham manufacturer to invent processes for producing embroidered goods, so as eventually to threaten the French not only with the loss of the plain, but also of the fancy trade.

But the French do not stand alone in the rage for prohibition; the Nottingham manufacturers had an active committee during the years 1833, 4, and 5, employed in preventing the exportation of machinery used in their trade. They did not see that they thus placed a check upon the progress of mechanical invention, deprived themselves of a market for machinery, when their supply exceeded the demand, and, consequently, so far placed a lock upon their capital; and, finally, they were not aware that they offered a premium to the ingenuity of foreign artisans. Exportation, which was almost suspended during the period of the committee's labours, has since recommenced. From Porter's tables, we find that the declared value of machinery and mill-work exported to France was, in 1833, 18,476*l.*; in 1834, 36,802*l.*; and in 1835, 46,471*l.*; and we conclude that disguised bobbin-net ma-

chinery formed a part of the increase, because the French manufacturers, in their evidence before the General Council of Commerce, declare that "the insides of their machines,—that is to say, the bobbins and carriages, all come from England."

We are unable to form any estimate of the number of persons employed in the bobbin-net manufacture. In August 1833, Mr. Felkin reckoned the whole, including spinners, doublers, frame-workers, finishers, and embroiderers, at 159,000, but in the present fluctuating state of the trade, we cannot say positively whether the same estimate will apply, but we have reason to believe that it is considerably under the truth. Mr. Felkin gives the following statement of the rate of wages:—

"The net wages earned by men vary from 12*s.* to 35*s.* a week, according to the kind, width, and speed of the machines at which they are employed,—16*s.* is about the average. Wages to women vary from 3*s.* to 12*s.* a week, according as engaged in embroidering, mending, or finishing goods,—the average may be stated at 6*s.* Wages to children are from 1*s.* to 4*s.* including embroiderers, winders, drawers, &c. and average 2*s.* a week."

During the late distress at Nottingham, we find that the average wages of frame-work knitters was 11*s.* 6½*d.* per week; of lace-makers 15*s.* 1*d.* per week; and of smiths, occupied in making or mending machinery, 16*s.* 4*d.* per week.

It has been proposed to constitute a local board of trade in Nottingham, similar to the French "*Conseils des Prud'hommes*," to decide all controversies between masters and men; to guard the property of patents, marks, patterns, &c. and to supply the government from time to time with exact returns of the prosperity or decay of each branch of manufacture and commerce. Mr. Felkin, in a pamphlet on the subject, now before us, intimates a doubt of the effect of such interference, and unless they were voluntary institutions, we doubt whether they could mediate beneficially between the employer and the operative; but securing copyright in patterns, and periodically making up accurate statistics of the state of trade, are objects of the highest importance, and we trust that means for accomplishing both will soon be devised for all the great divisions of British manufacture.

Retrospect of Western Travel. By Harriet Martineau, Author of '*Society in America*,' &c.

[Second Notice.]

We promised, if possible, to find room for a few more of Miss Martineau's pen-and-ink portraits, and we cannot do better than introduce our readers at once to a whole gallery:—

"The American Senate is a most imposing assemblage. When I first entered it, I thought I never saw a finer set of heads than the forty-six before my eyes:—two only being absent, and the Union then consisting of twenty-four States. Mr. Calhoun's countenance first fixed my attention; the splendid eye, the straight forehead, surmounted by a load of stiff, upright, dark hair; the stern brow; the inflexible mouth;—it is one of the most remarkable heads in the country. Next him sat his colleague, Mr. Preston, in singular contrast,—stout in person, with a round, ruddy, good-humoured face, large blue eyes, and a wig, orange to-day, brown yesterday, and golden to-morrow. Near them sat Colonel Benton, a temporary people's man, remarkable chiefly for his pomposity. He sat swelling amidst his piles of papers and books, looking like a being designed by nature to be a good-humoured barber or innkeeper, but forced by fate to make himself into a mock-heroic senator. Opposite sat the transcendent Webster, with his square forehead and cavernous eyes; and behind him the homely Clay, with the face and figure of a farmer, but something of the air of a divine, from his hair being combed straight back from his temples. Near them sat Southard and Porter; the former astute and rapid in countenance and

gesture, the latter strangely mingling a boyish fun and lightness of manner and glance with the sobriety suitable to the Judge and the Senator. His keen eye takes in everything that passes; his extraordinary mouth, with its overhanging upper lip, has but to unfold into a smile to win laughter from the sourest official or demagogue. Then there was the bright *bonhomie* of Ewing of Ohio, the most primitive-looking of senators; and the benign, religious gravity of Frelinghuysen; the gentlemanly air of Buchanan; the shrewdness of Poindexter; the somewhat melancholy simplicity of Silsbee,—all these, and many others, were striking; and for nothing more than for their total unlikeness to each other. No English person who has not travelled over half the world, can form an idea of such differences among men forming one assembly for the same purposes, and speaking the same language. Some were descended from Dutch farmers, some from French huguenots, some from Scotch puritans, some from English cavaliers, some from Irish chieftains. They were brought together out of law-courts, sugar-fields, merchants' stores, mountain-farms, forests and prairies. The stamp of originality was impressed on every one, and inspired a deep, involuntary respect. I have seen no assembly of chosen men, and no company of the high-born, invested with the antique dignities of an antique realm, half so imposing to the imagination as this collection of stout-souled, full-grown, original men brought together on the ground of their supposed sufficiency to work out the will of their diverse constituencies."

We gave last week a sketch of the President; we must be content now to fill up our canvas with a few Ex-Presidents. Here is Mr. Adams:

"My chief interest was watching Mr. Adams, of whose speaking, however, I can give no account. The circumstance of this gentleman being now a member of the representative body, after having been President, fixes the attention of all Europeans upon him, with as much admiration as interest. He is one of the most remarkable men in America. He is an embodiment of the pure, simple morals which are assumed to prevail in the thriving young republic. His term of office was marked by nothing so much as by the subordination of glory to goodness,—of showy objects to moral ones. The eccentricity of thought and action in Mr. Adams, of which his admirers bitterly or sorrowfully complain, and which renders him an impracticable member of a party, arises from the same honest simplicity which crowns his virtues, mingled with a faulty taste and an imperfect temper. His hastiness of assertion has sometimes placed him in predicaments so undignified as almost to be a set-off against the honours he wins by pertinacious and bold adherence to a principle which he considers sound. His occasional starts out of the ranks of his party, without notice, and without apparent cause, have been in vain attempted to be explained on suppositions of interest or vanity: they may be more easily accounted for in other ways. Between one day and another, some new idea of justice and impartiality may strike his brain, and send him to the House warm with invective against his party, and sympathy with their foes. He rises, and speaks out all his new mind, to the perplexity of the whole assembly, every man of whom bends to hear every syllable he says,—perplexity which gives way to dismay on the one hand and triumph on the other. The triumphant party begins to coax and honour him; but before the process is well begun, he is off again, finding that he had gone too far; and the probability is that he finishes by placing himself between two fires. I now describe what I actually witnessed of his conduct in one instance; conduct which left no more doubt of his integrity than of his eccentricity. He was well described to me before I saw him. 'Study Mr. Adams,' was the exhortation. 'You will find him well worth it. He runs in veins; if you light upon one, you will find him marvellously rich; if not, you may chance to meet rubbish. In action, he is very peculiar. He will do ninety-nine things nobly,—excellently,—but the hundredth will be so bad in taste and temper, that it will drive all the rest out of your head, if you don't take care.' His countrymen will 'take care.' Whatever the heats of party may be, however the tone of disappointment

against Mr. Adams may sometimes rise to something too like hatred, there is undoubtedly a deep reverence and affection for the man in the nation's heart; and any one may safely prophesy that his reputation, half a century after his death, will be of a very honourable kind. * * Though he now and then vents his spleen with violence when disappointed in a favourite object, he seems able to bear perfectly well that which it is the great fault of Americans to shrink from,—singularity and blame. He seems at times reckless of opinion; and this is the point of his character which his countrymen seem, naturally, least able to comprehend."

While staying at Washington, Miss Martineau received an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Madison, and went on a visit to Montpelier:—

"We were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Madison and a niece, a young lady who was on a visit to her; and when I left my room I was conducted to the apartment of Mr. Madison. He had, the preceding season, suffered so severely from rheumatism, that, during this winter, he confined himself to one room, rising after breakfast, before nine o'clock, and sitting in his easy chair till ten at night. He appeared perfectly well during my visit, and was a wonderful man of eighty-three. He complained of one ear being deaf, and that his sight, which had never been perfect, prevented his reading much, so that his studies 'lay in a nut-shell'; but he could hear Mrs. Madison read; and I did not perceive that he lost any part of the conversation. He was in his chair, with a pillow behind him, when I first saw him; his little person wrapped in a black silk gown; a warm grey and white cap upon his head, which his lady took care should always sit becomingly; and grey worsted gloves, his hands having been rheumatic. His voice was clear and strong, and his manner of speaking particularly lively,—often playful. Except that the face was smaller, and of course older, the likeness to the common engraving of him was perfect. He seemed not to have lost any teeth, and the form of the face was therefore preserved, without any striking marks of age. It was an uncommonly pleasant countenance.

"His relish for conversation could never have been keener. I was in perpetual fear of his being exhausted; and at the end of every few hours I left my seat by the arm of his chair, and went to the sofa by Mrs. Madison, on the other side of the room: but he was sure to follow, and sit down between us: so that when I found the only effect of my moving was to deprive him of the comfort of his chair, I returned to my station, and never left it but for food and sleep,—glad enough to make the most of my means of intercourse with one whose political philosophy I deeply venerated. There is no need to add another to the many eulogies of Madison: I will only mention that the finest of his characteristics appeared to me to be his inexhaustible faith,—faith that a well-founded Commonwealth may, as our motto declares, be immortal; not only because the people, its constituency, never dies; but because the principles of justice in which such a Commonwealth originates never die out of the people's heart and mind. This faith shone brightly through the whole of Mr. Madison's conversation, except on one subject. With regard to slavery, he owned himself to be almost in despair. He had been quite so till the institution of the Colonization Society. How such a mind as his could derive any alleviation to its anxiety from that source is surprising. I think it must have been from his overflowing faith; for the facts were before him that in eighteen years the Colonization Society had removed only between two and three thousand persons, while the annual increase of the slave population in the United States was upwards of sixty thousand.

"He talked more on the subject of slavery than on any other, acknowledging without limitation or hesitation all the evils with which it has ever been charged."

We may here be allowed to interrupt even Mr. Madison; for slavery, we rejoice to say, is a question in which Englishmen have now no direct interest:—

"Mr. Madison spoke strongly of the helplessness

of all countries cursed with a servile population, in a conflict with a people wholly free; ridiculed the idea of the Southern States being able to maintain a rising against the North: and wondered that all thinkers were not agreed in a thing so plain. He believed that Congress has power to prohibit the internal slave-trade. He mentioned the astonishment of some strangers, who had an idea that slaves were always whipped all day long, at seeing his negroes go to church one Sunday. They were gaily dressed, the women in bright-coloured calicoes; and when a sprinkling of rain came, up went a dozen umbrellas. The astonished strangers veered round to the conclusion that slaves were very happy; but were told of the degradation of their minds,—of their carelessness of each other in their nearest relations, and their cruelty to brutes. * *

"Mr. Madison expressed his regret at the death of Mr. Malthus, whose works he had studied with close attention. He mentioned that Franklin and two others had anticipated Malthus in comparing the rates of increase of population and food; but that Malthus had been the first to draw out the doctrine;—with an attempt at too much precision, however, in determining the ratio of the increase of food. He laughed at Godwin's methods of accounting for the enormous increase of population in America by referring it to immigration, and having recourse to any supposition rather than the obvious one of an abundance of food. He declared himself very curious on the subject of the size of the Roman farms, and that he had asked many friends where the mistake lies in the accounts which have come down to us. Some Roman farms are represented as consisting of an acre and a quarter; the produce of which would be eaten up by a pair of oxen. The estate of Cincinnatus being three times this size, he could scarcely plough, after having lost half of it by being surety. Either there must be some great mistake about our notion of the measurement of Roman farms, or there must have been commons for grazing, and woods for fuel; the importation of grain from Sicily and other places not having taken place till long after. He asked by what influence our corn laws, so injurious to all, and so obviously so to the many, were kept up, and whether it was possible that they should continue long. He declared himself in favour of free-trade, though believing that the freedom cannot be complete in any one country till universal peace shall afford opportunity for universal agreement.

"He expressed himself strongly in favour of arrangements for the security of literary property all over the world, and wished that English authors should be protected from piracy in the United States, without delay. He believed that the utterance of the national mind in America would be through small literature, rather than large, enduring works. After the schools and pulpits of the Union are all supplied, there will remain an immense number of educated sons of men of small property, who will have things to say: and all who can write, will. He thought it of the utmost importance to the country, and to human beings everywhere, that the brain and the hands should be trained together; and that no distinction in this respect should be made between men and women. He remembered an interesting conversation on this subject with Mr. Owen, from whom he learned with satisfaction that well educated women in his settlement turned with ease and pleasure from playing the harp to milking the cows.

"The active old man, who declared himself crippled with rheumatism, had breakfasted, risen and was dressed before we sat down to breakfast. He talked a good deal about the American Presidents, and some living politicians, for two hours, when his letters and newspapers were brought in. He gaily threw them aside, saying he could read the newspapers every day, and must make the most of his time with us, if we would go away so soon as we talked of. He asked me, smiling, if I thought it too vast and anti-republican a privilege for the ex-Presidents to have their letters and newspapers free, considering that this was the only worldly benefit they carried away from their office. * *

"He declared himself perfectly satisfied that there is in the United States a far more ample and equal provision for pastors, and of religious instruction for

the people, than could have been secured by a religious establishment of any kind; and that one of the greatest services which his country will be hereafter perceived to have rendered to the world, will be the having proved that religion is the more cared for, the more unreservedly it is committed to the affections of the people. He quoted the remark of Voltaire, that if there were only one religion in a country, it would be a pure despotism; if two, they would be deadly enemies; but half a hundred subsist in fine harmony. He observed that this was the case in America; and that so true and pregnant a remark as this ought to be accepted as an atonement for many that would die of untruth. He went on to notice the remarkable fact that creeds which oppose each other, and which in concatenation would seem to be most demoralizing, do, by virtue of some one common principle, agree in causing the moral elevation of those who hold them. He instanced Philosophical Necessity, as held by Hume, Kaimes, Edwards, and Priestley. He told me how he had once been prejudiced against Priestley, and how surprised he was, when he first met the philosopher at Philadelphia, to find him absolutely mild and candid. * *

"I glanced at the newspapers when they came in; and found them full of the subject of the quarrel with France,—the great topic of the day. Mr. Madison gave me an account of the relations of the two countries, and of the grounds of his apprehensions that this quarrel might, in spite of its absurdity, issue in a war. This is all over now; but some of his observations remain. He said it would be an afflicting sight if the two representative governments which are in the van of the world should go to war: it would squint towards a confirmation of what is said of the restlessness of popular governments. If the people, who pay for war, are eager for it, it is quite a different thing from potentates being so, who are at no cost. He mentioned that George the Fourth, as Prince Regent, was a large gainer in the last war, from his share of the Droits of the Admiralty, amounting to 1,000,000*l.* per annum:—a pretty premium, Mr. Madison observed, to pay a king for going to war. He told me about the formation of the philosophical and humane agreement between Franklin and Frederic of Prussia, that merchant ships, unarmed, should go about their business as freely in the war as in peace. * *

"Then, by some channel, now forgotten, we got round to the less agreeable subject of national debts and taxation, when, as might be expected, Mr. Madison expressed his horror of the machinery necessary under a system of indirect levy, and his attachment to a plan of moderate expenditure, provided for by direct taxation. He remarked upon Pitt's success in obtaining revenue when every other man would rather have surrendered his plans than used the means he employed. He observed that King, Lords, and Commons, might constitute a government which would work a long while in a kingdom no bigger than Great Britain; but that it would soon become an absolute government in a country as large as Russia, from the magnitude of its executive power: and that it was a common but serious mistake to suppose that a country must be small to be a republic; since a republican form, with a federal head, can be extended also without limits, without losing its proportions,—becoming all the while less, instead of more, subject to change. In a small republic, there is much noise from the fury of parties; while in a spreading, but simply working republic, like that of the Union, the silent influence of the federal head keeps down more quarrels than ever appear."

We must now devote what remains of our space to a visit to Mount Vernon:—

"Our party, in three carriages, and five or six on horseback, left Washington about nine o'clock, and reached Alexandria in an hour and a half, though our passage over the long bridge which crosses the Potomac was very slow, from its being in a sad state of dilapidation. Having ordered a late dinner at Alexandria we proceeded on our way, occasionally looking behind us at the great dome of the Capitol, still visible above the low hills which border the grey, still Potomac, now stretching cold amidst the wintry landscape. It was one of the

coldest days I ever felt; the bitter wind seeming to eat into one's very life. The last five miles of the eight which lie between Alexandria and Mount Vernon wound through the shelter of the woods, so that we recovered a little from the extreme cold before we reached the house. The land appears to be quite impoverished; the fences and gates are in bad order; much of the road was swampy, and the poor young lambs, shivering in the biting wind, seemed to look round in vain for shelter and care. The conservatories were almost in ruins, scarcely a single pane of glass being unbroken; and the house looked as if it had not been painted on the outside for years. Little negroes peeped at us from behind the pillars of the piazza as we drove up. We alighted in silence, most of us being probably occupied with the thought of who had been there before us,—what crowds of the noble, the wise, the good had come hither to hear the yet living voice of the most unimpeachable of patriots! As I looked up, I almost expected to see him standing in the doorway. My eyes had rested on the image of his remarkable countenance in almost every house I had entered; and here, in his own dwelling, one could not but look for the living face with something more than the eye of the imagination. I cared far less for any of the things that were shown me within the house than to stay in the piazza next the garden, and fancy how he here walked in meditation, or stood looking abroad over the beautiful river, and pleasing his eye with a far different spectacle from that of camps and conventions.

"Many prints of British landscapes, residences, and events are hung up in the apartments. The ponderous key of the Bastille still figures in the hall, in extraordinary contrast with everything else in this republican residence. The Bible in the library is the only book of Washington's now left. The best likeness of the great man, known to all travellers from the oddness of the material on which it is preserved, is to be seen here, sanctioned thus by the testimony of the family. The best likeness of Washington happens to be on a common pitcher. As soon as this was discovered, the whole edition of pitchers was bought up. Once or twice I saw the entire vessel, locked up in a cabinet, or in some such way secured from accident: but most of its possessors have, like the family, cut out the portrait, and had it framed.

"The walk, planned and partly finished during Washington's life,—the winding path on the verge of the green slope above the river, must be very sweet in summer. The beauty of the situation of the place surprised me. The river was nobler, the terrace finer, and the swelling hills around more varied than I had imagined: but there is a painful air of desolation over the whole. I wonder how it struck the British officers in 1814, when, in passing up the river on their bandit expedition to burn libraries and bridges, and raze senate chambers, they assembled on deck, and uncovered their heads as they passed the silent dwelling of the great man who was not there to testify his disgust at the service they were upon. If they knew what it was that they were under orders to do, it would have been creditable to them as men to have mutinied in front of Mount Vernon.

"The old tomb from which the body of Washington has been removed ought to be obliterated or restored. It is too painful to see it as it now,—the brickwork mouldering, and the paling broken and scattered. The red cedars still overshadow it; and it is a noble resting-place. Every one would mourn to see the low house destroyed, and the great man's chamber of dreamless sleep made no longer sacred from the common tread: but anything is better than the air of neglect which now wounds the spirit of the pilgrim. The body lies, with that of Judge Washington, in a vault near, in a more secluded, but far less beautiful situation than that on the verge of the Potomac. The river is not seen from the new vault; and the erection is very sordid. It is of red brick, with an iron door, and looks more like an oven than anything else, except for the stone slab, bearing a funeral text, which is inserted over the door. The bank which rises on one side is planted with cedars, pines, and a sprinkling of beech and birch, so that the vault is overshadowed in summer, as the places of the dead

should be. The President told me that the desolation about the tomb was a cause of uneasiness to himself and many others; and that he had urged the family, as the body had been already removed from its original bed, to permit it to be interred in the centre of the Capitol. They very naturally cling to the precious possession; and there is certainly something much more accordant with the spirit of the man in a grave under the trees of his own home than in a magnificent shrine: but, however modest the tomb may be,—were it only such a green hillock as every rustic lies under,—it should bear tokens of reverent care. The grass and shade which he so much loved are the only ornaments needed; the absence of all that can offend the eye and hurt the spirit of reverence, is all that the patriot and the pilgrim require."

Whether we shall be able once again to return to this work must depend on the activity of the publishers.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Raff Hall, by Robert Sullivan, Esq.—This novel owns a title which, to quote one of its publisher's paragraphs, is calculated to make "people ask each other whether there is no offence in the book." Dehuded by it, many a fastidious gentleman has doubtless paused over her order to the circulating library, fearful of being introduced with more heartiness than propriety into the "rough and ready" precincts of Saint Giles's. Nay, the preliminary paragraphs sent forth were express and decisive enough to deceive even persons as experienced as ourselves. We made up our minds to meet another Sam Weller, another Jack Brag, another unlucky Joe,—judge then, gracious reader, of our discontent at encountering in their stead,—no persons more original or distinguished than Romeo and Rosa Matilda,—"no Blue Boar—no nothing." It was, as Dr. Franklin wrote, when his daughter tacked a postscript to a sensible letter, petitioning for lace and feathers, "as if you had put salt to our strawberries." And yet 'Raff Hall,' is an agreeable novel of its kind; excellent in one requisite of a fiction—its maintenance of the reader's suspense. Mr. Sullivan is as skilful an insurmountable obstacle-maker as Madame D'Arlay herself. Having started his hero in love (according to the best approved receipt), he throws in the ingredients of an impudent and unprincipled cousin, the raff of Raff Hall,—an old tutor's young wife, only waiting to be gracious,—a second young lady, already bespoken by a Captain Fleetwood, who is used as a screen by the cousin and the tutor's wife, and placed in circumstances so equivocal that the hero, James (not Ernest) Maltravers, is compelled, as a man of honour, to fight on her account, and to offer her his hand though he cannot offer his heart. Then, yet further to complicate the plot, there is a mysterious uncle, who is lost to his family and friends early in the book, but starts up again and disappears on occasions, in the true Jack-a-lantern style. After such a "rise and progress," involving many a "hair-breadth 'scape," it is hard to conceive Sir Hector becoming in his "decline and fall" a sensible, sober householder, but it was necessary that he should undergo such a metamorphose for the winding-up of the story; and Mr. Sullivan has accordingly so managed it. 'Raff Hall,' however, though occasionally feeble, never becomes insipid, and contains some Italian scenes touched with that buoyant lightness which distinguishes the shorter tales by its author.

Report of Proceedings at the Inaugural Meeting of the Society for Promoting Design, and Diffusing a Knowledge and Love of the Arts among the People.—The objects of the Society are fully explained in the title it has assumed: these objects it proposes to carry into effect by means of evening classes and lectures. 1st, Instruction will be given in Geometry, Drawing, Modelling, Light, Shade and Colour: these may be considered as elementary branches of instruction, to be followed by Lectures on the Human Figure and Anatomy, Zoology, Botany, Ornamental Heraldry, Architecture, Machinery; and others in which the information before given will be specially applied to the respective trades. A Museum of Casts and Models, and a Library of Books and Engravings, will be formed. It is also proposed to open a Day School for females (many of whose pursuits

are intimately connected with the arts), under the superintendence of competent female teachers. The subscription to the Schools, Lectures, Library, and Museum, will be, for pupils under sixteen, 2s. 6d. per quarter; above that age, 4s. In the objects of the Society, we heartily concur; and if there be no jobbing, no trickery, and if the working people, who are specially interested in the success of the Institution, be admitted, in full proportion, into the Committee, we think the Society may have a good chance of success. Wishing it well, we shall take leave to hint to the members of the Committee, under whose sanction this Report is circulated, that *good taste*, which it is their professed object to teach, is not limited in its influences to art; and that a little less self-laudation in this Report would have been becoming. It was not necessary to inform the public that James Elmes, Esq., the "author of many eminent works," took the chair, and addressed the meeting in an "able speech"—that Mr. Ewart followed in an "able and talented speech"—Mr. Wyse, in an "enthusiastic speech of great effect," received "with deafening enthusiasm"—Mr. Ashton Yates "ably"—that Mr. Clarke was "able and energetic"—Sir J. D. Paul "short, but able"—or to refer to the "usual ability and effect" of Mr. Foggo's oratory; especially as they have been pleased to make one exception to this mountebank trumpeting—the speech made by Mr. Anthony Morton, the only man from among the working classes who addressed the meeting.

An Historical Sketch of the Royal Exchange, by S. Angell.—A well-timed publication, chiefly compiled, as is acknowledged, from Stowe, and illustrated with seven engravings. It contains in brief space as much perhaps as the public generally will desire to know respecting the history of this once celebrated building.

Practical Remarks on the Diseases of the Skin, &c. by Walter C. Dendy.—The late Dr. Jenner used to say that every pimple had its mission; meaning thereby, that diseases of the skin depend for the most part on internal irritations, and stand in the place of visual diseases, much more dangerous. Without fully adopting his hypothesis, we may safely warn our friends, that the removal of an external blemish by repellent lotions, whether obtained from a patent warehouse, or extracted from the pages of a diplomatised writer, is an operation of considerable hazard. We feel it a more imperative duty to repeat this warning on the present occasion, because the volume under consideration treats its subject with a special reference to the conditions of infancy and childhood. Maternal anxiety about spots, pimples, and blotches, is proverbial; and foolish ladies are perpetually induced to undertake the cure of such hateful eyesores on their own responsibility. It is precisely, however, in children, that eruptive diseases are most frequently acute, and of constitutional origin, or connected with internal derangement; their treatment, therefore, is attended by proportionate difficulty and risk; and it demands a closer medical superintendence.—Mr. Dendy's work being exempt from general reasonings, and consisting chiefly of practical details of direction and prescription, has a less learned character than usual, and is well adapted to blind the uninitiated to their own incapacity, by its apparent facilities of application. It is a brief compendium, which may, perhaps, on occasions, be usefully consulted by the general practitioner, to refresh his memory, in the absence of an extensive library; but it will only lead self-satisfied ignorance into temptation. The skin of infants is an active irritable tissue, and there is nothing trifling or insignificant in its morbid changes, or in the applications by which they are attacked.

List of New Books.—Angell's Historical Sketch of the Royal Exchange, 12mo. 2s. 6d. s.w.d.—Cecil's Memoirs of Mrs. Hawkes, new edit. 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—Cooper's Excursions in Italy, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. bds.—Kyan on the Elements of Light, roy. 8vo. 10s. cl.—Parker on the Stomach, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—The Prose Works of Bishop Ken, edited by J. T. Round, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.—Sinclair's (Miss) Hill and Valley, post 8vo. 10s. cl.—Sketches of Young Gentlemen, illustrated by Cruikshank, 12mo. 3s. bds.—Sprague on True and False Religion, 12mo. 5s. cl.—Tiers's German Grammar, new edit. 12mo. 6s. cl.—Tiers's Introduction to German, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—The Variations of Popery, by S. Edgar, 8vo. 12s. bds.—Wieland's Gaudalind, translated by F. Hope, 12mo. 4s. cl.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR JANUARY.

KEPT BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE APARTMENTS OF
THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1838. JAN.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			Barometer at 9 A.M. Dry Bulb Ther.	Diff. of Wet and Dry Bulb Ther.	External Thermometers.				Rain in inches, Read off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.	
	Barometer uncorrected.			Barometer uncorrected.					Fahrenheit.		Self-registering					
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.	Att. Ther.	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.	Att. Ther.			9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest				
M 1	29.978	29.972	48.3	29.924	29.918	49.2	43	02.3	45.7	48.3	43.8	50.2		SSE	{A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Dark heavy clouds. Evening, Overcast—very fine rain.	
T 2	29.888	29.882	47.6	29.794	29.786	48.5	43	01.8	45.8	46.7	43.0	48.7		SE	{A.M. Overcast—very light mist and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Overcast—deposition.	
W 3	29.642	29.636	47.2	29.692	29.686	47.8	43	02.1	44.3	47.3	43.2	48.8		SSE	{Fine—light clouds, with light brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and clear.	
T 4	29.976	29.970	44.8	30.006	30.000	45.7	39	01.8	40.2	46.6	39.4	48.3		S	{Fine—light clouds & wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine and clear.	
F 5	30.270	30.262	44.0	30.264	30.256	43.3	38	01.2	37.4	36.7	35.8	47.4		W	{Thick fog throughout the day. Evening, Foggy.	
S 6	30.292	30.284	40.8	30.242	30.236	41.0	34	01.4	35.5	37.7	32.3	38.7		SW	{A.M. Thick fog—deposition—light wind. P.M. Light fog. Even- ing, Deposition—light fog.	
○ 7	30.304	30.298	40.3	30.306	30.300	40.0	34	02.2	36.7	36.2	35.0	40.4		N	{A.M. Light fog and wind. P.M. Overcast. Evening, Fine and clear—sharp frost.	
M 8	30.398	30.392	34.9	30.336	30.330	34.8	25		30.6	31.5	28.8	37.3		NE	{A.M. Light snow, with sharp frost. P.M. Overcast—light wind. Evening, Confined frost.	
T 9	30.212	30.204	29.8	30.162	30.156	29.3	23		21.0	23.4	23.0	32.8		N	{Overcast—light snow nearly the whole day, with light brisk wind. A.M. Cloudy—light wind, with sharp frost—light snow. P.M. Over- cast. Evening, Snow—sharp frost.	
W 10	30.050	30.044	28.8	29.972	29.966	29.7	23		25.3	26.5	23.2	25.6		N	{Overcast—light snow nearly the whole day, with light brisk wind. A.M. Cloudy—light wind, with sharp frost—light snow. P.M. Over- cast. Evening, Snow—sharp frost.	
T 11	29.960	29.954	27.3	30.002	29.996	28.4	21		22.4	28.0	19.8	23.2		NW	{Overcast—light snow and wind, with sharp frost the whole of the day. A.M. Dense fog—light wind. P.M. Overcast—fog cleared. Even- ing, Fog—sharp frost.	
F 12	30.324	30.316	28.7	30.334	30.326	28.6	20		23.3	26.9	19.7	24.0		NNW	{Fine—light clouds and wind, with sharp frost throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.	
S 13	30.314	30.306	26.9	30.234	30.228	27.6	21		21.8	25.2	20.8	27.7		SE	{A.M. Overcast—light snow—brisk wind. P.M. Lightly overcast. Evening, Fine—sharp frost.	
○ 14	29.988	29.984	27.2	29.916	29.912	28.0	20		24.4	25.2	22.0	26.2		NW	{Overcast—light snow, with sharp frost throughout the day. Even- ing, Very sharp frost.	
M 15	29.824	29.820	23.6	29.778	29.772	24.3	12		15.7	24.8	14.9	26.3		SW	{Overcast—light snow, with sharp frost throughout the day. Even- ing, Very sharp frost.	
T 16	29.850	29.846	25.8	29.922	29.916	27.2	20		27.0	29.3	11.4	26.3		NW	{A.M. Overcast—light snow and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Overcast—light snow—frost.	
W 17	30.216	30.208	27.0	30.204	30.198	28.8	21		29.0	30.7	24.2	32.0		NW	{Overcast—light snow, with light brisk wind throughout the day. Evening, Sharp frost.	
T 18	30.016	30.008	26.9	29.910	29.904	26.3	19		23.3	24.2	23.4	31.5		NE	{A.M. Overcast—light snow, with light brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Overcast—light snow—frost.	
F 19	29.786	29.780	25.3	29.786	29.780	25.2	11		21.0	20.5	21.2	25.6		NNE	{A.M. Overcast—light snow, with light brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Overcast—light snow—frost.	
S 20	29.934	29.928	21.2	29.910	29.904	21.7	14		12.8	21.2	11.5	21.0		NW	{A.M. Dense fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Light fog—sharp frost. A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Cloudy—light brisk wind. Evening, Fine—light clouds—thaw.	
○ 21	29.892	29.886	22.4	29.758	29.752	25.0	16		24.5	31.8	13.8	25.0		ENE	{A.M. Overcast—light wind and rapid thaw. P.M. Fine—light clouds —continued thaw. Evening, Overcast.	
M 22	29.680	29.676	27.7	29.700	29.696	31.0	24		39.8	42.8	24.7	40.3		ESE	{A.M. Overcast—light brisk wind—continued thaw. P.M. Fine— light clouds. Evening, Overcast.	
T 23	29.706	29.700	33.3	29.662	29.658	34.9	33	01.6	34.4	36.4	32.7	43.3		NE	{Overcast—very high wind—sharp frost the whole day. Ev. Sharp frost. Overcast—brisk wind the whole day. Evening, Sharp frost.	
W 24	29.752	29.748	30.9	29.738	29.734	29.6	23		26.7	25.7	26.4	37.4		NE var.	{Ditto ditto ditto.	
T 25	29.554	29.548	27.6	29.460	29.454	28.6	21		26.7	27.9	24.8	27.0		ENE	{Overcast—light brisk wind the whole day. Evening, Overcast—frost.	
F 26	29.362	29.356	29.0	29.332	29.326	30.0	24		28.6	29.5	26.4	29.2		ENE	{Overcast—light and rain.	
S 27	29.284	29.278	30.2	29.280	29.276	30.8	23		29.8	29.8	28.4	30.4		E	{A.M. Overcast—rapid thaw—light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds —continued thaw. Evening, Overcast.	
○ 28	29.454	29.450	31.7	29.452	29.448	32.0	24		28.7	31.0	28.5	31.0		E	{Overcast—light fog, with deposition the whole of the day. Even- ing, Overcast—deposition.	
M 29	29.464	29.458	33.0	29.510	29.502	35.2	29		01.5	37.8	43.8	28.8		E	{Overcast—light fog, with deposition the whole of the day. Even- ing, Overcast—deposition.	
T 30	29.640	29.634	37.2	29.648	29.640	37.2	32		00.8	35.8	34.2	35.8	44.3	072*	E	{Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.
W 31	29.784	29.778	37.3	29.856	29.850	37.2	31		01.3	35.2	35.3	33.8	36.8	072*	NE	{Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.
MEAN.	29.897	29.891	32.5	29.874	29.868	33.1	25.9	01.6	30.1	32.4	27.1	34.4		072	Mean Barometer corrected.....	
															9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 29.890 ... 29.866 C. 29.913 ... 29.939	

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We are tempted occasionally to adopt the melancholy theory, that the mind of man is little better than a barrel-organ,—that time only brings change of tune, and that discovery is but a revival of a forgotten folly. It is not ten years since there was a general outcry against the mendacious impudence of our old almanacks—Poor Robin was scouted, and "Francis Moore, Physician," was hoisted out of practice;—but lo! the barrel has played out the set, and here we are listening again to Parnickson—only that instead of Moore's Melodies we have Murphy's. By the aid of a few half-guinea "set fair" paragraphs, this weatherwise gentleman has contrived, we are told, to hoist the sale of his Almanack up to one hundred thousand copies! Yes, incredible as it may seem, one hundred thousand men and women are prepared to sow their crops, line their petticoats, lay in their coals, leave off their flannel, buy spring silks, and take to their skates, pattens, pumps, parapluies, or parasols, at a hint from that Occult Philosopher, Mr. Murphy! Of his philosophy we took occasion to speak in an article expressly written on the subject of Meteorology (*Athenæum*, No. 510), wherein we characterised it as absurd and laboriously trifling: the world, however, would not read his books, and, therefore, we presume, he published an almanack; and now we are told that the world cannot understand his philosophy. My predictions, he says, are "calculations founded on ascertained principles, probably known only to myself;" and with a rare degree of assurance for a philosopher in the nineteenth century, he seriously requires the public to give him a twelvemonth's credit, on such personal security. Stranger still, he has found believers to stick him up for a Weathercock on their steeple of St. Faith, and, cock like, he does not find himself on such an eminence without crowing. "Did I not predict," says he, "the setting-

in of the Frost on the 7th?" No! say we; it was to be "Frost and Fair" on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. True, says our weathercock, "but was I not borne out to the letter in the northern part of the island? and I am wrong again, I admit, yesterday and to-day, though probably fully borne out in the South of Ireland!" Such divination surely requires no Prophet, and any one of the hundred thousand purchasers might practise it quite as well as Mr. Murphy himself without being a conjuror. In fact, the country manager who snowed brown when he could not snow white, was but a Murphy in his way, and not much more of a latitudinarian in his practical Meteorology. However, the question need not rest on opinion. We this day publish the Monthly Table of the Royal Society, and, to make assurance doubly sure, we have had extracts made from the Journal kept by the Horticultural Society, brought down to the last day of meeting, and we print the facts face to face with the prophecy.

Weather Table for January 1838.

According to Murphy's Almanack.	According to fact, as shown in the Met. Journal kept at the Hort. Society.
1 Fair.	Very fine—slight rain.
2 Fair.	Cloudy and fine—rain.
3 Fair.	Fine.
4 Changeable.	Very fine.
5 Changeable.	Dense fog.
6 Changeable.	Ditto.
7 Fair.	Hazy—frost at night.
8 Fair.	Frosty—slight snow.
9 Fair.	Frosty—ditto.
10 Fair.	Severe frost.
11 Fair.	Ditto—snowing.
12 Fair.	Ditto—foggy.
13 Fair.	Ditto.
14 Changeable.	Ditto—snowing.
15 Fair.	Ditto.
16 Fair.	Ditto.
17 Fair.	Ditto.
18 Fair.	Ditto—slight snow.
19 Fair.	Frost.
20 Fair.	Ditto—thermometer in past night 4° below Zero.

* See Letter in the Times.

21 Changeable.	Frosty—thawing at night.
22 Changeable.	Very fine.
23 Changeable.	Hazy and cold—wind at night.
24 Rain.	Cold and dry—high wind.
25 Rain.	Cold and dry.
26 Fair.	Overcast and cold.
27 Fair.	Do. Do.
28 Fair.	Fine.
29 Changeable.	Ditto—thawing.
30 Rain.	Ditto.
31 Fair.	Frost. Hazy and cold.
1 Fair.	Cold and dry—slight frost at night.
2 Changeable.	Ditto. Do—severe frost.
3 Rain.	Frosty, but fine, with little wind.
4 Changeable.	Ditto—cold and dry.
5 Changeable.	Ditto. Ditto.

During the last 5 days, the atmosphere, as indicated by the Hygrometer, has been very dry.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. P. Thomson, has just given notice of his intention to move for leave to bring in a bill to enable him to enter into arrangements with other nations for an international law of copyright. The subject is one, the importance of which we have so long and anxiously enforced on public attention, that we need not advert to the satisfaction with which we make this announcement. The very basis on which such a law must rest, enlarges the sympathy and the brotherhood of mankind—it is a bridge over those "narrow brooks" that, as Cooper says, "make enemies of nations;" and we rejoice to see England ready and willing to recognize the great principles of universal justice, without selfish restrictions. We hear from America, that the publishers, paper-makers, and binders, in every part of the union, are petitioning against such a law, as calculated to injure their trade. We do not think that the opinion of those who have a special interest opposed to the general interest is, on this or any other question, entitled to much weight; assuredly, if the Americans be of opinion that a national literature is more worthy of consideration than a mere question of shillings and pence,

(for pounds are out of the question,) she will disregard such a petition, and not remain out of and beyond the pale of a common law of civilization. Laws against piracy may be contrary to the interest of buccaneers, but we never heard of a legislature that considered such an argument as entitled to much weight.

It is now understood that Miss Kemble,—whose first appearances, three years ago, were marked by singular promise,—is on the point of coming out on the foreign opera stage: we have heard, at Milan, "Prophecy (to quote Lord Brougham,) is a dangerous expenditure of intellect;" but we hear on every side, from sound musicians of every school and country, such confirmation of the very high expectations we have always entertained concerning this young lady,—not merely as a vocalist, but as an artist,—that we cannot but look for her first appearance, with as much of hope as interest. It would be a rare instance of hereditary talent, were we to find the new Pasta in a niece of "glorious John" and Mrs. Siddons. It is also rumoured that Mlle. Garcia is to begin her public career here, as a concert-singer. De Beriot too, it is said, means to pay London a visit during the coming season.

The announcements of the week have been few, and of little importance. New editions of Shakespeare, and of Beaumont and Fletcher, each in a single volume, with Lives by Thomas Campbell—'Men and Things in America, or, a Year's Residence in the United States; in which are treated the subjects of Emigrants' Prospects, State of Coloured Population, Democratical Politics, Trades' Unions, &c., with some notices of Canadian Affairs,' by A. Thomason—'Thoughts on Tactics and Military Organization, with an Inquiry into the offensive and defensive Power of Russia,' by Lieut.-Col. Mitchell.

Her Majesty, we are informed, has appointed Mr. W. Essex to be her enamel painter in ordinary; and the Scotch papers make mention of the death of Sir D. K. Sandford, Professor of Greek in the University of Glasgow, and formerly member of Parliament for that city.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALE MALL.

The GALLERY, for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Feb. 8.—S. P. Rigaud, Esq. V.P., in the chair.—James Bateman, Esq., Joseph Glynn, Esq., William Hallows Miller, Esq. M.A., the Rev. Bancroft Reade, M.A., Robert Bentley Todd, M.D., and Alexander Tweedie, M.D., were elected Fellows. George Lowe, Esq. was re-elected a Fellow.

A paper was read, 'On the Dispersion of Light,' by the Rev. Baden Powell, and the reading of another, constituting the twelfth series of 'Experimental Researches on Electricity,' by Dr. Faraday, was commenced.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Feb. 8.—Mr. Amyot, Treasurer, in the chair. Sir Henry Ellis, Secretary, commenced the reading of a copy from a MS. in the British Museum, entitled 'A relation of the success of the love of Henry IV. of France for the Princess de Condé,' communicated, with some prefatory remarks in a letter to Sir Henry, by Mr. John Holmes. The writer of the original was Sir William Beecher, son-in-law of Oliver, third Lord St. John of Bletsoe, who was attached to the English embassy in Paris at the period to which his manuscript refers.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Feb. 3.—The Right Hon. C. W. Williams Wynn, M.P., the President, in the chair.—Henry Laver, Esq. was elected a Resident Member.

Among the donations laid upon the Society's table was a MS. Persian Catalogue, accompanied by a letter from Professor Forbes, the donor, explanatory of its contents. The Catalogue was principally valuable from containing the names of several works unknown or believed to be lost, such as the Chronicles of Tabari in the original Arabic, and the Mustafa Nameh, containing 104,000 couplets in the metre of the Shah Nameh; and although the name

of the possessor, as well as the place and date, is nowhere stated, there is reason to conclude that the books existed within forty or fifty years in the library of some Indian prince; this inference may be drawn from the circumstance of "His Sublime Highness" being named in the catalogue, and from many of the books being in the Hindustani language, and of recent date.

A paper by Lieut. Postans, 'On a Sect of Yogis in Cutch, known by the name of *Kānphatis*,' was then read to the meeting. The *Kānphatis* reside in an extensive range of buildings near Danodhar, where their creed and practice is to give food and shelter to all persons demanding it, of whatever caste or sect, and without limit as to time and quantity. Their numbers are few, and they bind themselves to a life of celibacy, but their charities are large, and they have considerable revenues to enable them to comply with the very liberal rules of their order. The chief of the *Kānphatis* is understood to derive great dignity from his office, and he is not obliged to return a salute or answer a question from any one, not even from the Rājā of Cutch. This sect has its peculiar name from the immense ear-rings which its members wear, by which their ears are nearly burst. The words *kān* and *phati* meaning "ear-burst." Lieut. Postans was received by these people in the most obliging manner, and was shown everything of interest in their establishment. A portrait of the present chief of the *Kānphatis*, and a drawing of one of the immense cauldrons in which rice is boiled for the numerous applicants upon their bounty, accompanied the paper. On this memoir Professor Wilson remarked that the *Kānphatis* were once a powerful body; that they were probably the founders of the cave temples of that part of India; and that the figures in those temples were all represented as wearing enormous ear-rings like those worn by the *Kānphatis*. Other sects in India had similar establishments, having considerable resemblance to the monastic institutions of continental Europe, with the exception of there being no personal restraint on any of the members; all parties went away and returned whenever they pleased.

The reading of 'An Account of the Ruins of Gūmli, the capital of Jetwar,' by Captain Jacob, closed the meeting. These ruins, which are at a short distance from Poorbunder, on the coast of Gugerat, are of considerable antiquity, and contain remains of sculpture and architecture of great beauty. One of the traditions of the natives attributes the ruin of the place to the powerful imprecations of Sona Kusarin, a beautiful woman who was betrothed to a brave warrior named Rakhayit. The sovereign of the country, smitten with love for the bride, caused Rakhayit to be put to death. The inconsolable Sona Kusarin, to avoid the hated solicitations of the royal assassin, after uttering a fearful curse upon him and his capital, devoted herself to the flames. This event is stated to have happened in the year 1113 A.D. The authentic cause of the fall of Gūmli was the invasion of a Mohammedan army from Sind, which took place two centuries later than is stated in the above tradition. The most recent date discovered among the ruins answers to the year 1229 of the Christian era.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

Jan. 15.—P. F. Robinson, V.P., in the chair.—John Foulston, and Samuel Beazley, were elected Fellows.

A paper was read, 'On the Restoration of the Temple of Jupiter Olympius at Athens,' with illustrations, by C. E. A. Blair, Esq., Architect, of Reigate. Also a communication from Charles Parker, Fellow, 'On the Relative Strength of Several Cast Iron Beams, when subjected to a Transverse Strain: being the Result of a series of Practical Experiments.'

The object of this paper was to give the results of a series of thirty-four experiments, made in an attempt to compare with one another the relative strengths of several cast-iron beams, when subjected to a transverse strain, and to ascertain the difference in the strength of their sections when close, and when open or pierced.

The experiments made were on a sufficiently large scale to allow of that precision in adjustment which is essential to obtain an accurate result. The length of each model, when cast, was 2 feet 5½ inches,

and the breadth was 1½ inch. The results obtained appeared to be as follows:—

	Weight of beam, Ounces.	Breaking weight, Pounds.
Complete rectangular section.....	23	373
Ditto, with webs in the middle.....	34	325
Ditto, with webs on upper edge.....	34	325
Ditto, with webs on lower edge.....	34	350
Ditto, with webs on both edges.....	43	750
Ditto, with space between webs on both edges filled in solids.....	90	950

The paper was illustrated by the original models, which were afterwards deposited in the collection of the Institute.

The drawings which had been sent in for the Soane medallion were exhibited; consisting of two restorations of the Abbey of St. Mary, York; a restoration of Lanthony Abbey, Monmouthshire; and a restoration of Kirkstall Abbey, Yorkshire.

The paper accompanying one of the first subjects was read, together with some preliminary observations, by P. F. Robinson, V.P.

Little is known of the early history of this abbey. That there was a monastery on this site during the time of the Saxons, appears certain; but, as the Danes repeatedly destroyed the northern monasteries, the one of St. Mary's probably shared the same fate; and the only remains that can, with any probability, have been of that period, are the rough foundations of the east end of a very small church, situated where the east aisle of the south transept of the last church stood. Taking the epochs of the rebuilding of the different parts of the monastery from the remains, they will be found to divide themselves into five distinct periods, viz:—

1st. *The Saxon*, of which the only remains are the foundations of the east end of the church as above stated.

2nd. *The Norman*, when the monastery was entirely rebuilt by Stephen, called the first abbot, under the auspices of William Rufus, who himself laid the first stone, about the year 1100. The remains are,—the great gateway from Marygate, the vestibule to the chapter-house, the misericorde, the cellarer's office, the school of the monks, and the rough foundations of the north-east part of the east end of the church.

3rd. *The Early English*, when the church and chapter-house were entirely rebuilt by Simon de Warwick, abbot from 1250 to 1290. The remains are part of the west front of the church, and the outer wall of the north aisle of the nave, with parts of the walls of the transept, boundary walls, and foundations of the choir and chapter-house.

4th. *The Enriched Gothic*, about the year 1450, when the principal part of the edifices seems to have been rebuilt. The remains of this period are chiefly the school and ambulatories of the novices and of the monks, the parlour, the kitchen and its dependencies, the porter's cells, guests' hall, and a great portion of the walls and towers, and a gateway to the abbot's palace.

5th. The works that appear to have been going on at the time of the dissolution; the remains of which are, the water-gate, porter's cell, and room over.

Such is a slight outline of the history of this monastery. The latter part of the paper consisted of a description of the plans of the restoration.

Jan. 29.—Earl de Grey, President, in the chair.—Charles J. Richardson, Architect, was elected a Fellow, and George B. Webb, and Charles Henman, Associates.

A letter was read from G. B. Greenough, Esq., Honorary Member, enclosing the sum of 50l. for the purposes of the Institute, and accompanied by a volume of the Transactions of the Geological Society.

A communication was read from H. E. Goodridge, of Bath, Fellow, describing the ruins of a Roman villa, recently discovered at Newton, near Bath, on the line of the Grand Western Railway.

The first part of an essay, sent in for the Institute medal, was read, on the following subject:—'On the Excellencies which distinguish the Ancient Athenian Architecture, and on the Principles of Art and Science by which they were attained, with regard to Design, Proportion, Light and Shade, Colour, Construction, and Adaptation to Purpose, to Situation, and to the Materials employed.'

ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—Feb. 2.—J. R. Gowen, Esq. F.G.S. in the chair. Many ladies were present. The Report of the Council stated that Mr. Blyth

had been appointed Assistant Secretary and Curator of the Museum, the latter officer being rendered necessary by the munificent loan of the Hon. W. T. Fiennes. Several donations were announced. It was mentioned that the collection of living birds had sustained very little injury from the severity of the winter; and that arrangements had been made for procuring a great number of rare and beautiful species in the course of the ensuing spring. Thomas Bell, Esq. F.R.S., Robert Blagden Hale, Esq. M.P., and Anthony White, Esq. were elected Members.

Mr. Blyth then commenced a discourse, on the Geographical Distribution of Birds, by enumerating—1st, A variety of groups and species which are confined to particular regions; and, 2ndly, Others, and some of comparatively trivial value, which are diffused over the greater portion of the world. He illustrated the subject, by adducing various phenomena of geology and botany; enumerated and explained some of the more interesting analogous adaptations of different types of form, geographically separated, such, for instance, as the humming birds of America, and the nectarfeeders of India and its islands, Africa and Australia; took a rapid survey of the modern theories of zoological provinces, particularly commenting on Dr. Richardson's, and called particular attention to the following fact, which he was not aware had been previously announced—viz. that those North American birds which have no generic representative in Europe, and those European genera which have no species proper to America, are, almost without exception, migratory, belonging to types of forms characteristic of those regions where they pass the winter. Several interesting deductions were drawn from this fact. The leading characters of the ornithology of different regions were then discussed; and generalising upon these characters, and the facts already stated, Mr. Blyth indicated some of the laws which might be supposed to regulate and circumscribe the dispersion of particular species.

Mr. Vigors, after stating that he hoped this important subject would be followed into its subdivisions at one of the ensuing meetings, proceeded to make a few remarks on some of its most striking points, such as the corresponding, or geographical representation, of groups and species, inhabiting different localities. The ostrich (for instance) of the African deserts represented in Asia and its islands by the cassowary, in Australia by the emu, in the Pampas of South America by the rheu, and in Europe (as he conceived) by the great bustard. It was his opinion that every prominent group had thus an analogue, or representative, in each of the principal divisions of the world; and that in every case where such representation were wanting, the deficiency was occasioned by some sufficient and harmonious cause. As an example, the starlings were represented as inhabiting all parts of the world except Australia; the explanation of which exception is, that they seek much of their subsistence on the backs of cattle, and in Australia there are no indigenous ruminant quadrupeds. It was thus, that in many other instances the diffusion of animals is regulated by that of their prey, this again by that of particular vegetables, which, in its turn, is dependent on the soil. Before Mr. Vigors concluded, he expressed a hope that at the next meeting there would be laid on the table a greater number of specimens to illustrate the subject of discussion.—Mr. Chester stated, that if the gentlemen who proposed to favour the Society with any scientific observations at future meetings, would apprise the Council of the specimens which would be desirable for illustration, every possible exertion should be used to obtain them.

'The Geographical Distribution of the Rasoors, or Poultry Birds,' was announced as the subject for the next meeting.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—Feb. 2.—At this meeting was exhibited a large collection of French Plants, supposed to have formed part of the herbarium of the celebrated J. J. Rousseau, presented by Mr. James Rich. The first part of this collection was presented last year. A paper, by Mr. D. Cooper, was read, On some new species of Corallines, described by Ferdinand Krauss. Baron von Ludwig presented some months since to the museums of his country a large collection of objects of natural history from the Cape of Good Hope, amongst which

Dr. Krauss discovered three new species—viz. *Amathia biseriata*, *Acanarhis tridentata*, and *Flustra marginata*. It was announced that the Curator would deliver a course of Lectures on Practical Botany in the early part of March, commencing one hour previous to the ordinary meetings.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Westminster Medical Society	Eight. P.M.
MON.	Geographical Society	Nine.
	British Architects	Eight.
	Society of Arts (Even. Illus.)	Eight.
TUES.	Architectural Society	Eight.
	Zoological Society (Sci. Bus.)	p. Eight.
	Institute of Civil Engineers	Eight.
WED.	Medico-Chirurgical Society	p. Eight.
	Society of Arts	p. Seven.
	Medico-Botanical Society	Eight.
THUR.	Literary Fund, (General Meeting)	Three.
	Royal Society	p. Eight.
	Numismatic Society	Seven.
FRI.	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
	Geological Society (Anniversary)	One.
	Botanical Society	Eight.
	Royal Institution	p. Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

DRURY LANE.

This Evening, JOAN OF ARC; with OUR MARY ANNE; and the PANTOMIME.
On Monday, RICHARD THE THIRD, (Duke of Gloucester, Mr. Charles Kean); and other Entertainments.
Tuesday, DER FREISCHUTZ; with OUR MARY ANNE; and the PANTOMIME.
Wednesday, HAMLET; and BLUE BEARD.

COVENT GARDEN.

This Evening, THE WINTER'S TALE; and FRA DIAVOLO.
Monday, MACBETH; and the PANTOMIME.
Tuesday, THE IRISH AMBASSADOR, (Sir Patrick O'Connell, Mr. Power); with JOAN OF ARC; and the PANTOMIME.
Wednesday, KING LEAR; with Entertainments, in which Mr. Power will perform.
Thursday, A New Play in Five Acts, called THE LADY OF LYONS; or, Love and Pride.

VOCAL CONCERTS.—HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

Under the Patronage of H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent.
The THIRD CONCERT of the Season will take place on MONDAY EVENING, the 12th of February, when will be performed Selection from the Works of Purcell, Winter, Beethoven, &c.; Glee by H. Cooke, Webb, and Stevens; Madrigals by Byrd and Weekes; and an Instrumental Nonetto by Spohr.—Family Tickets, for four, One Guinea and a Half; Single ditto, Half-a-Guinea; had of Messrs. Cameron & Co. Regent-street; Card, Quadrant; or Purday, St. Paul's Churchyard.
THOS. OLIPHANT, Sec.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

Messrs. BLAGROVE, GATTIE, DANDO, and LUCAS, beg to inform the Public that the QUARTETT CONCERTS of the present Season will take place on THURSDAY EVENINGS, February 22, March 8, 22, and April 5. To commence at half-past eight o'clock. Further particulars will be duly announced.—Subscription Tickets (transferable) One Guinea each, may be obtained of the Conductors, and at the principal Music-shops.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS BY WIND INSTRUMENTS.—

These began at the Hanover Square rooms yesterday week: the principal pieces were two quintetts, by Reicha, a nonetto, by Krommer, and Beethoven's lovely quintett, of which Mrs. Anderson took the pianoforte part. The music went well; indeed, we know not where we could find names more certain to imply perfect performance, than those of M. Barret on the oboe, Mr. Willman on the clarinet, Signor Puzzi on the horn, and Herr Baumann on that most racily-toned instrument of instruments—the bassoon: and it gives us especial pleasure to pay these artists honour due, inasmuch as the peculiar branch of the profession to which they have devoted themselves brings them less strikingly before the public than others they could have chosen—more brilliant, indeed, but not more indispensable. Since a wind instrument—the flute—is, beyond any other, cultivated by the male amateurs of England, we think that these Concerts ought to, and we hope that they will, meet with a large patronage. To ourselves, we must confess, that an evening of wind-music is something satiating; and we should not be sorry to find Signor Puzzi (to use the footman's phrase) "reciprocating" with Mr. Mori's party. The music was accompanied by Signor Negri, whom we mention as a rising maestro.

LYCEUM.—OPERA BUFFA.—The subscription season closed a week since, with 'Elisa e Claudio' revived—an opera calling for no honour, either to Mercadante or to the management. We may now, therefore, say a few words, without being thought to bear uncharitably hard upon a young undertaking, to the success of which there have been many difficulties opposed. In a third season, it will be impossible to make allowance for such deficiencies as the list of cantatrici has exhibited during the past three months. If the prime donne chosen be old and practised, it is

indispensable that they sing in tune; if they be young, and brought forward on the score of promise, ditto. Nothing but the *certaino so che* which distinguishes most foreigners, when on the stage, from our own clever, conscious, awkward countrymen and women, could have induced the most tolerant ears to tolerate Madame Franceschini and Mdlle. Scheroni—nothing but occasional evidences of her having studied the grand style, and having studied it well, could have made us draw a mantle of charity over the departed voice of Madame Eckerlin. They are going to Dublin, *tutte tre*—let us hope that we shall hear them no more. We shall be glad, however, to meet Sig. Catone again, if he will work hard in the meantime—and Sig. F. Lablache, who has worked hard—and Sig. Castellan, who, report saith, is working hard.

DRURY LANE.—On Monday last, Mr. Charles Kean made his first appearance in 'Richard the Third.' The satisfaction his previous exertions had given, was quite evident from the extreme fulness of the house, which was so over-crammed, as to be much more agreeable to the lessee than to the audience. It cannot be denied that it was a packed audience, for of a more closely-packed one we never had the discomfort of forming a part. A peculiar honour marked Mr. Kean's debut in this character—the Queen was pleased to be present; and, as the event proved, was present to be pleased. The interest which Her Majesty's repeated private visits to Drury Lane and Covent Garden show that she takes in the national drama, has done far more for it than the occasional state commands, however beneficial those commands may be: it has made the boxes of the patent theatres once more the resort of fashion. The state of the house on Monday, and the bad situation in which we were, made it quite impossible for us to arrive at a fair estimate of the talent evinced by Mr. Charles Kean in his new undertaking; and it is therefore not fit that we should offer anything more than a general opinion. It seemed, then, to us, that his representation of the character was formed upon that of his father—that it differed in no very essential point from it—and that it was only so far inferior to it, as the want of equal experience and of the immense power of eye which the elder Kean possessed must necessarily have caused it to be.

That the public are always gainers by competition, is again shown by the late improvements at both the great houses in the getting up of the plays of Shakespeare. Nothing so satisfactory has been seen since the admirable and appropriate manner in which 'Henry the Fourth,' 'King John,' 'Othello,' &c. were produced, during Mr. Charles Kemble's management at Covent Garden. The scenery and dresses of 'Richard the Third,' as presented on Monday, are beautiful and correct; but while using the epithet correct, as applied to the dresses, we regret to be obliged to make an exception in the quarter in which we should least have expected it.—Mr. Charles Kean's persisting in wearing the old penny printshop costume, or rather, mixture of costume of Richard, when that portion of his dress which is nearest to Richard's time is above a hundred years subsequent to it, and also to the costume of those about him on the stage, is in the most questionable taste. He may be well assured, that Shakespeare has so written 'Richard the Third,' that people will be able to recognize the character without the aid of the dress they have been so long accustomed to see it in. It is to be hoped that Mr. Kean does not mean to set himself against those improvements in costume, of which the English stage, as one step to advancement, is so much in need. If so, we should recommend him to bring the question to issue at once, by playing *Macbeth* in a blue coat, white waistcoat, and nankeen pantaloons. One defect, occasioned by too much seeking after effect, struck us in his acting; and, as distance from the stage must rather have diminished than magnified this, it is our duty to mention it. We allude to the excess of melodramatic action in which Mr. Kean indulged in the fourth and fifth acts. Much of this may, perhaps, be attributable to the over-anxiety of a first performance of so arduous a character. Mr. Kean has our best wishes; and the pointing out of an unquestionable error is more consistent with such a feeling, than blundering and indiscriminate praise.

He was listened to with attention during the first three acts, and in the fourth and fifth, and at the end, the applause was tumultuous.

ADELPHI.—In addition to the attraction of Mrs. Nisbett, the management here, ever active in its anxiety to amuse all classes, has brought forward a curious natural production, called Signor Hervio Nano, whose real name is Leech, but who delights in sticking to another. This oddly-formed individual enacts at one time a fly, at another a monkey. The audience were not much bitten by him on the first night, but he has contrived to fasten on them since, and now they will not get rid of him until he has made them bleed pretty freely.

MISCELLANEA

Temperature of Africa.—It appears from a Paris paper that during the year 1837 the temperature in the north of Africa, was at the highest 25° above, and at the lowest 8° above zero of Reaumur, or from 88½° to 50° of Fahrenheit. In France, the variation was from 24° above to 8° below zero of Reaumur, or from 86° to 14° of Fahrenheit. One peculiarity about the climate of Algiers is the almost total absence of storms. There are, however, very frequently violent gales off the coast.

Observations on board the Bonite.—M. Darondeau communicates a long list of the observations made on board the *Bonite*, relating to natural philosophy. The diurnal movements of the magnetised needle have been observed from morning till evening, every quarter of an hour, in various parts of the world. Its inclination, declination, and magnetic intensity have been observed also in different places. The temperature of the soil, and the heights of tides noticed, as well as atmospheric pressure, and the temperature of the air and sea. The quantity of rain registered, and notes taken of halos, lunar rainbows, and auroras. Besides these, water has been brought home from a great depth in the ocean, and experiments made upon it with the instrument invented by M. Biot, and altogether the results of the voyage of the *Bonite*, now safely anchored in the harbour of Brest, will be most important to science.

New Method of treating Fractures.—We have already noticed M. Velpéau's new method of treating fractures, but the following details give more minute information. Whatever the state of the fracture may be, whether accompanied or not by swelling or wounds, M. Velpéau proceeds immediately to its reduction; this done, he surrounds the part with pads, and a moderately tight bandage, reaching from the insertion of the toes to the upper extremity of the fractured limb. He then wets the bandage with starch, made as if for starching linen: after this, he continues the same bandage downwards, or towards the lower extremity. These fresh layers are starched like the first, to which they adhere, except in the lower part, where they are separated by pads, or stuffing placed on each side of the *Tendo Achillis*. Four strips of wet pasteboard are then placed behind, before, and on each side of the leg, which are again fastened by bandages at the heel and knee, and these bandages are starched like the rest. The whole will be dry in from two to four days; and when this is effected, the limb and the bandage are so exactly adapted to each other, that the bones cannot be displaced. The pressure being moderate and equal, no restraint is felt, and the patient can turn in his bed, and move about as if he had only received a simple contusion.

Tartaric Acid.—M. Biot has been making some important experiments and observations concerning the effect produced on rays of polarized light by different solutions of tartaric acid, either purely aqueous or combined with other bodies, which combinations alter the deviations of the rays. The object of these experiments is to establish the laws of each combination, and the learned Professor is still devoting his attention to this subject, in the hope of completing the system.

New Steam Engine.—The *Birmingham Herald* announces a new kind of rotary steam-engine, the invention of a labouring mechanic. "Its size is not more than twice that of a man's hat, and the expense of a five-horse-power will not exceed in cost half-a-score pounds. Its form is cylindrical, being about 18 inches in diameter, and 22 deep. The steam is ad-

mitted through a hole in a hollow circular belt (attached to a wall), upon which it revolves, and works it by a diagonal action against an upright piston, being forced out by pressure of a diagonal plate, which divides the interior into two portions. The rotary action is beautifully managed by means of a perfectly spherical steam-tight joint at the end of a fixed inclined arm, towards which joint the upper and lower surfaces of the interior part of the cylinder are made to slope, after the form of the exterior of an hour-glass. Upon these the diagonal plate performs its revolutions, such movement being permitted through an opening (from the circumference to the centre), equal in width to the thickness of the before-named upright piston, up and down the sides of which it continually works. To the centre of the bottom of the cylinder is fixed a shaft, having attached to it a wheel which communicates the motion that may be required; and this is all the machinery of which it consists! We have just had a glance at a model of this machine, which we understand has been approved by Mr. Robert Stephenson. The above description is pretty correct; but our opinion is not quite so favourable of the invention, simple and ingenious as it certainly is. From the hasty glance we took of it, we are inclined to believe its action will not be one of uniform intensity, the very object of a rotary engine.—*Railway Magazine.*

Engraving of the Last Supper.—We can find room only for such parts of the following letter as bear immediately on the subject in question.—[To the Editor of the *Athenæum*.]—Sir,—Permit me to set you right with respect to an error into which you have accidentally fallen in speaking of the print of the Last Supper, and in describing it as having been engraved by Collet's machine. The engraving, agreeably to the lines beneath it, has been executed in London, under my superintendence, not by Collet's machine, but by a machine constructed here in London. A hasty reading of those lines beneath that print has also led to a second mistake, when you say the model was executed under my superintendence. I should not have ventured to have imposed my authority upon Messrs. William Peto and E. W. Wyon, who are the authors of that model, which, singularly enough, happens to be neither the joint production of the two nor the single-handed production of any one of these sculptors. I had only offered to both those gentlemen some hints as to the nature of the relief best qualified for machine engraving. The engraving, however, is an accurate one, according to the model, which may be seen at the Publisher's. I am, &c.

London, Feb. 8.

VINCENT NOLTE.

Epizootics.—[To the Editor of the *Athenæum*.]—Sir,—I observe by your valuable journal that Mr. W. Sharpe Macleay, President of the Zoological and Botanical Section of the British Association, stated that he had discovered a new plant growing on the body of a dead fly; and after making a few remarks upon it, he proposed that it should be called *Epizootie*. Now, as I have been for some time examining and experimenting on this substance, I hope that a few observations on it will not be unacceptable. When I first directed my attention to this substance on flies, I was of the same opinion as Mr. W. S. Macleay—that it was a plant; and for the purpose of watching its growth I collected a number of flies, on some of which it had just appeared, on one of which it was in full luxuriance, and many it had disappeared altogether. On all of them, however, I found it made its appearance soon after death, but never before it. I observed that in every case where a diseased fly rested on a hard substance that could not absorb moisture, such as glass, there was always a deposit of very small drops of a liquid, which were formed by the condensation of a vapour issuing from the body of the fly. This circumstance led me to suspect that it was not a plant, but a disease. After trying several experiments, I found my supposition to be correct, and also that it was possible to cause a fly to take the disease without any predisposition in itself or connexion with a diseased one. The following is the method I adopted to effect my purpose:—Take a common house-fly and place it under a glass with a sufficient supply of water to keep the atmosphere moist, and a little honey as aliment; then raise the temperature of the glass to 70°, and keep it at that temperature for a week or two, and the following will be the result:—The first day the fly will eat a considerable quantity of honey; on the second it will have commenced to swell, and will appear drowsy; on the third or fourth day it will die; and in about twenty-four hours after death there will be seen small globules of matter issuing from the tender parts of the abdomen, which are succeeded by others, these displace the former ones, and continue to make their appearance (the latter pushing the former ones farther from the fly) until they assume a form which, at first sight, very much resembles a plant. This substance will remain on the fly as long as any liquid remains in it; and after the whole of its juices have been evaporated, the supposed plant will slowly disappear, without leaving a vestige. From this I think it is evident that this substance is not a plant, but merely drops of matter deposited on the fly, in consequence of the evaporation of the fluids of the body, as it is never found on a fly that is not or has not been swollen. I have observed one or two instances in which this substance did not make its appearance on flies that had undergone the above treatment, but its non-appearance in such cases was compensated for by a discharge which took place after death.

Gronock, Jan. 23.

I am, &c.

J. J.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ILLUSTRATION OF MECHANICS.—Professor MOSELEY will DELIVER, during the present and next Terms, a COURSE OF LECTURES, intended to illustrate the Application of the Principles of Mechanics in the Arts, and their Operation in Nature. The first Lecture will be given on TUESDAY, the 30th inst., at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, precisely. Further particulars may be obtained at the Secretary's Office. King's College, London. H. J. ROSE, B.D., Principal.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 10th July, 1838, PREMIUMS of from FIVE to TEN GUINEAS EACH will be given for the best DESIGNS IN ART, applicable to the following Branches of Manufacture and Decoration, viz., Silk, Paper-hanging, Jewellery, Carpentry, Architectural Ornament, Carving, Glass, Porcelain, Ribbons, &c. The Competitors must have studied at least three months in the School at Somerset House.—Particulars to be learnt at the School.

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